noto by Yousef Al 'Allan



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THE HOUSING BANK

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20 YEARS

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#### Russian envoy arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Possuvalyuk arrived here Friday for talks with Syrian leaders, the official news agency SANA said. Mr. Possuvalyuk underlined "Syria's important role in the Middle East peace process," and said his two-day visit was particularly aimed at improving bilateral relations, the agency said. The Russian envoy last visited Damascus in voy last visited Damascus in July, wheo he held talks with Syrian Foreign Mioister Faroug Al Sbaraa on the Arab-Israeli peace process.

#### Qatar ready to stop appeal over Bahrain dispute

MUSCAT (AFP) - Oatar said Friday it was prepared to withdraw an appeal to the International Court of Justice over a 50-year-old border dispute with Bahrain if Saudi Arabia succeeds in mediating in the row. "Qatar is still ready to withdraw its recourse to the court if the mediation led by Saudi Arabia reaches an acceptable solution," said Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa al Thani. The Gulf Cooper-atio Council (GCC) is due to meet at the end of December in Muscat to discuss border disputes between its mem-

#### 1 dead, 14 injured in Fort Bragg attack

WASHINGTON (R) - A gunman opened fire on Friday at an air force base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, killing one person and injur-ing 14, a base official said. "Fifteen soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division were shot at approximately 6:30 a.m. here today while conducting physical training."
said base spokesman Tim
Donahue. "One soldier is
confirmed dead and 14 have been admitted to Fort Bragg's Womack army medical centre." It was not known how serious the injuries were. A soldier was arrested and taken into custody. The names of the suspect and the victims have been yet been made public.

#### Italy to host EU summit in June

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ROME (AFP) — Italy will host a summit of the European Union's (EU) 15 heads of state and government in June 1996, Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini announced on Friday. Following a Rome meeting of the EU Council of Ministers, Mr. Dini announced the June 22-23 summit and other key EU meetings to be held during his country's six-month tour of duty at the head of the European policy-making body, including an informal get together of foreign ministers in Palermo on March

#### All flights to Kabul airport suspended

KABUL (AFP) - All flights into Kabul were temporarily suspended on Friday as another barrage of rockets rained down near the capital's airport, a security officer said. He said planes were being re-routed to a military atrport in perimeter, 50 kilometres north of the capital. The four rockets landed harmlessly on a hill outside the airport permiter, the officer said. There were no casualties. At least five rockets were fired at the airport on Wednesday and 10 on

#### Assali passes away

AMMAN (Petra) - Prominent historian Kamel Jamil Al' Assali, author of many books and publications on Jerusalem, Palestine and Islamic History among many other subjects, passed away in Amman on Friday. The deceased, who taught history at various educational institulions, the last of which was at the University of Jordan, was laid to rest in Amman.

# MENA seeks to build private-public sector partnership - King

HM, accepting Prince Asturias prize, reaffirms commitment to democracy, political pluralism and human rights

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE MIDDLE EAST and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which opens in Amman tomorrow, will devote itself to granting the private sector the freedom to operate freely since such freedom is vital to achieving sustainable economic growth, His Majesty King Hussein

The King, addressing a gathering at Asturias, Spain, where he accepted the prestigious Prince of Asturias Con-

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — A European Union (EU) delegation met sentor Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials

at the organization's de facto

headquarters in East Jeru-

salem on Friday to the fury of

The European troika de-

legation, representing the countries holding the im-

mediate past, present and fu-

ture presidency of the EU, met the PLO minister of

Jerusalem, Faisal Husseini,

Before the visit, the de-

legation, led by Spanish

Foreign Minister Javier Sola-

na, met a furious Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin in Tel Aviv earlier

Friday. Israel has banned the

Palestinians from any politic-

The only address to meet

al activity in Jerusalem.

at the Orient House.

Israeli leaders.

cord Award for 1995, reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to peace as well as to democracy, political pluralism and respect for human rights. While it has made peace

with Israel, Jordan also realises that there "remains much work to be done" to nurture and sustain peace, said the King, who made the stopover at Asturias on his way home from attending the U.N.'s 50th anniversary celebrations. The Prince Asturias Concord Prize was awarded to him in recognition of his

EU troika defies Israeli

call, visits Orient House

members of the Palestinian

National Authority (PNA) is

in the self-rule territories.

That is what is stipulated in

the accord between us and the Palestinians," Mr. Rabin

told them, according to his

spokeswoman Aliza Goren.

The troika, which began a tour of the Middle East on

Thursday, arriving in Cairo and Beirut, met PLO leader

Yasser Arafat in Gaza City

before visiting the Orient

House. They signed a deal

for a European Investment

Bank loan of 300 million dol-

lars to cover badly needed

Israel captured and

"annexed" the Arab eastern

sector of Jerusalem in 1967,"

but has not received interna-

tional recognition for its dec-

laration that the Holy City is

its undivided and eternal

infrastructure work in the

Palestinian territories.

Addressing the gathering. the King emphasised that "the bedrock of stability and genuine security lies in economic prosperity, and the closing the of gap between the wealthy and the less for-

tunate."
"It is here that Europe must play a role, for now is the hour of Europe," said the King. "I do not speak of North against South, but rather of partners that share in the legacy of the right and

(Continued on page 7)

It periodically tries to per-suade visiting diplomats not to go to the Orient House

with varying degrees of suc-

Asked earlier in the day by reporters about the troika's plans to visit the PLO head-quarters on Friday, Mr. Peres

said: "I'm not particularly

During the meeting. Mr. Peres told Mr. Solana.

according to a foreign minis-

pean position is asking for

trouble and is particularly

bizarre in the light of the massive majority by which

the U.S. Senate adopted the

decision to move the U.S.

embassy in Israel to Jeru-

Mr. Peres was referring to

(Continued on page 7)

try statement: "The Euro-

happy about it."

# HIS ROYAL Highness

Prince Hassan met at the MENA summit press centre with Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khaled Al Karaki and issued directives on certain aspects relating to the opening ses-



Regent reviews summit facilities

Crown Prince Hassan on Friday inspected preparations for the three-day Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which opens here on Oct. 29, and was briefed on the final arrangements to receive participants and journalists who will be covering the event. Prince Hassan voiced satisfaction with the preparations and arrangements and praised the efforts made to ensure the success of the

HIS ROYAL Highness the Maximes, reads as fol-Crown Prince Hassan, the

Regent, has paid tribute to the Jordan Times on its 20th anniversary and wished the newspaper success in spreading the message of globalism. In a brief message, the Crown Prince's Press Office

sent on his behalf to the editor of the Jordan Times on Thursday. His Royal Highness quoted from a 17th century French classical author. Duc de la Rochefoucauld: "Celui qui croit pouvoir se passer de tout le monde se trompe, mais celui qui croit qu'on ne peut se passer de lui se trompe d'avantage."

A translation of that quotation, which appeared as one of 500 epigrammatic reflections on universal human behaviour collected under a publication (in 1665) called

lows: "Those who believe they can do without the world decrive themselves; but those who believe the world cannot do without them deceive themselves even more."

La Rochefoucauld was an aristocrat whose writings were generally cynical with self-interest seen by him as the source of all action. On a more positive note, he recognised honesty as the aspect of human nature that holds society together.

In paying tribute to the 20th anniversary of the Jordan Times ... the Press Office, on behalf of His Royal Highness, wishes you all success in spreading the message of glohalism." the

Deputy Prime Minister and

(Continued on page 7)

## Israel does not pin much hope on Christopher's visit to Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) -Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday he did not expect stalled peace negotiations with Syria to be revived by the upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren

Christopher to Damascus. For the time being it looks like nobody is in a hurry," Mr. Peres told repor-"I regret it, because I think that we have to work very seriously for a comprehensive peace, but we cannot see any change in the Syrian

In spite of his pessimism Mr. Peres said it was useful for Mr. Christopher to visit Syria, to see if anything had changed in the Synan position. Mr. Christopher is scheduled to visit Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus

on Monday. "If something will be new, then the negotiations will be reopened," Mr. Peres said. "If not, we shall again return to the waiting line."

Syria broke off negotia tions between the Israeli and Syrian army chiefs of staff earlier this year. It has refused to resume talks unless Israel drops its insistence on relations with Israel, Israel

retaining an early warning station on the Golan Heights as a condition for withdrawal. Mr. Peres spoke after

meeting a delegation from the European Union (EU) presidium, currently led by Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana. The delegation will also be visiting Syria, and Mr. Solana said he would convey the views of Mr. Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to Mr. Assad.

Earlier, in a radio interview. Mr. Peres suggested Syria was reluctant to make peace with Israel because it would raise questions about the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon. "Assad is finding himself

quite isolated. There is in his eves a certain advantage to this isolation." Mr. Peres said. "As long as he is isolated he can hold onto Lebanon, with the Arab World saving nothing about this. If he emharks on the road to peace, it is likely to raise problems for him.

Mr. Rabin, at his meeting with the EU delegation on Friday, accused Syria of trying to stop other Arab

Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin would meet Mr. Christopher in Amman during the Middle East and North Africa economic summit opening there on

Mr. Peres said they would ask Mr. Christopher to press Syria over Damascus-based groups opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord whose militants have carried out suicide attacks against Israelis, and on guerrillas in Lebanon that Israel says Syria could curb.

Mr. Christopher will make the Damascus stopover of several hours of his way back from Amman.

A State Department source said the visit was aimed at "louching hase with Assad" and that no breakthroughs were expected.

Mr. Christopher does not intend to visit Israel during the trip.

The secretary of state was able to add the Damascus visit because of the delay in Bosnian peace talks next week in the United States. which are now set for Wednesday, officials said.

#### Cairo should not steal the show from Jordan, the second Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel, insist that "we want it (MENA-

The Jordanians appeared to accept that MENAFIO would later merge into the regional bank but they were reluctant to elaborate on details at this time.

source. Washington has said that it would support the

that they support the establishment of MENAFIO in Amman "on equal footing" with the regional bank.

Gulf countries, which are represented in REDWIG multilateral secretariai. however, would be expected to become pariners in the

Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians have been meeting with some 40 other states since January to decide

(Continued on page 7)

### Israel considers PLO bid to speed up Jenin withdrawal day. Mr. Peres said he had

autonomy agreement.

up, but we have to consider the orderly redeployment." Mr. Peres told reporters. "We shall try to do whatever we can to meet the two de-

Asked by reporters in

ning of the redeployment, Mr. Arafat said Friday that "there is no accurate, honest implementation" to the autonomy agreement, and that he hoped the situation would be corrected.

Jenin earlier this week when Israel moved out of a police station and five senior Palestinian officers arrived to coordinate with Israel the arrival of 1,000 police by mid-November. On Sunday, another 1g to 20 armed Palestinian officers were to

men to enter Jenin by Sun-

not responded yet. Colonel Ribhi Arafat,

the West Bank liaison office with Israel, said Israel was hesitant for fear there would

they have fears that their might be frictions if many Palestinians in uniforms and weapons wander in the city while Israeli soldiers are still there," said Mr. Arafat, who Chairman.

Palestinians did not start yet.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM Gaza City about the begin-(Agencies) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday he was considering a request by Palesninian leader Yasser Arafat to speed up a troop pullback from Jenin, the first West Bank town to be turned over to the Palestinians under the new Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

Mr. Peres said Mr. Arafat made the request in a telephone call Thursday evening. "Clearly the chairman would like to see it speeded

Redeployment began in

be deployed in Jenin.

Mr. Arafat asked Mr. Peres in their telephone conversation to allow an additional 150 Palestinian policePalestinian commander of

be overlapping authorities. The Israelis told us that

is not related to the PLO Mr. Arafat, stopped by reporters as he left Friday prayers, would only say: 'Handing Jenin to the

(Continued on page 7)

# Most Palestinians favour some form of union with Jordan

By Sa'eda Kilani be simply integrated into Jor-Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — More than twothirds of Palestinians are in favour of some sort of future results of the poll. union between their territor-Part of the survey was caries and Jordan, an opinion ried out in mid-October poll published Friday

The poli, carried out by two research institutes in Nablus and Jordan, showed that 74 per cent of those questioned were in favour of some kind of union, 22 per cent were against and four per cent expressed no opin-

Among those in favour of a union, 60 per cent want a confederation of two separate states, seven per cent a federation within one common state, while 25 per cent would like the territories to

Eight out of 10 of those questioned believe Jordanians and Palestinians have special links, according to the

among a representative sam-

ple of 1,144 people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by Centre for Palestinian Research and Studies in Nablus. The Strategic Studies Institute of Jordan University carried out the other part of the research, questioning 1,600

people, including 400 Palestinían refugees. The researchers said there was a three per cent margin

of error. The study, r. leased on Friday by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the Uni-

versity of Jordan, - and drawn from samples from Jordan, refugee camps, the West Bank and Gaza Strip showed that 77 per cent of Palestinians in the West Bank and 77.5 per cent Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are in favour of unified constitutiooal links with Jordan.

While Palestinians interviewed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip favoured confederation with a percentage of 44.7 per cent in the West Bank and 53.7 in the Gaza Strip, 51.8 per cent of Jordanians showed interest in restoring the pre-1967 status of the territories.

The highest percentage to favour this shape of unity. however, was refugee camp residents whose support was rated at 68.6 per cent.

"This is understandable,

centre's director. "They want independence but they want some kind of links with Jordan too. The study involved 1,200 Jordanians, 400 camp resi-

said Mustafa Hamarneh, the

dents. 729 West Bankers and 415 Gazans. It was the fourth study conducted by the centre in Jordan. The first opinion poll, on

the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, concentrated mainly on the domestic dimension. It was followed by roundtable discussions in April. The February study, released in September, showed consensus among the political and social circles in Jordan that relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians must be treated through innovative

approaches that take into

account the uniqueness and particularities of society. This study also showed that Palestinians believe in the un-

nians expressed different views over the existing relationship between the Palestinian authority and Jordan, Syria and Egypt.
The study showed that the Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip believed that the relationship between the Palestinian

National Authority (PNA) and the Egyptian government was better than its relationship with the Jordanian

While 84.9 of those interviewed in the Gaza Strip believed the PNA to have close ties with Egypt, only 74.1 per

cent believed the authority maintains close ties with Jordan. In terms of its relationship with Syria, the perique and positive relationship centage was the lowest. showing only 28 per cent of that exists between the two peoples. However, Palesti-Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank who think the PNA has strong relations

> The study also showed that 63 per cent of Palestinians interviewed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip believed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty ensured Jordan's full rights in security while only a small percentage said Jordan secured its rights in land and water, 36 and 25.8 respectively. However, a majority of Jordanians, in all cases, believed Jordan secured its full rights in the three domains.

(Continued on page 7)

## contacts continue on M.E. bank

By Nermeen Murad Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A day before the opening of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit, the fate of a regional hank and a parallel financial intermediary institution to be based in Amman hung in the halance as negotiations between Jordan and Egypt continued Friday. according to a Jordanian and other sources.

According to these sources, the two countries were still bogged down in negotiations over an impending announcement of the \$5 billion regional hank, to be hased in Cairo, and another regional institution to be ased in Amman.

The sources, who insisted on anonymity, told the Jordan Times that, Amman had lent its approval to the establishment of a regional bank in Cairo but not without conditions which Egypt has tailed

to accept so far. According to these sources, Jordan is missing that as Middle East North Africa Financial Intermediry Organisation (MENA-FIO) be established in Am-

While Cairo has accepted the concept, these sources say, it has also insisted that the proposed institution assume a "modest" posture and be later integrated into the operation of the regional

bank when it is established in about two years. The sources indicated that if Cairo continues to refuse to allow for the establishment of a "meaningful" parallel in-stitution to the bank, Amman

may no longer be interested in the establishment of the bank, a senior Arab source told the Jordan Times. "It is a package deal." the source While Jordanian officials have refused to reveal whether Jordan has made its acceptance of the bank conditional on the Egyptian acceptance of the MENAFIO-style, one Jorda-

nian source said that Jordan was insisting that the Amman-hased institution be an elaboration of the RED-WIG | Regional Economic Development Working Group) multilateral secretariat to turn it into a viable institution with "meaningful presence and on equal footing with the bank.

Jordanians who feel that FIO1 to have teeth and meat," the source told the Jordan Times.

According to the Jordanian

establishment of the economic regional institutions if the core countries of the Middle East peace partners reach consensus on them. These are Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinians and Israel. The Europeans have said

According to the sources, Saudi Arabia and the United Arah Emirates are set against participating in the establishment of a regional bank

Amntan-based institution.

# 2 Home & Middle East News

# Experts call for speeded-up Saudi bomber killed talks on Jerusalem's status

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Former U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, said the longer it takes to start talks on the final status of Jerusalem the "harder the compromises are going to be," in light of demographic factors on the Israeli side, a reference to the Israeli annexation of Arab land and populating the city with an increasing number of Jews.

In a panel discussion entitled "Jerusalem: Dimensions of A Unique City," spon-sored hy the Columbia School of Law at the Catholic University of America on Oct. 24, Mr. Lewis and two prominent law professors and jurists dehated the "Jerusalem Emhassy Act of 1995, which the Senate and House passed by overwhelming majorities as they spoke. Another panelist, Congress-man Benjamin Gilman, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, arrived late because of the roll call vote.

Mr. Gilman, lauding the legislation during a reception following the panel discussion, allayed concerns that the peace process would be adversely affected as a result, and said, "we finally did what we should have done." emphasising that Jerusalem "should be the capital of Israel.

Mr. Lewis, who served as ambassador to the Jewish state from 1977 to 1985, described the question of the embassy move as a "red herring" and "the least important issue" at present, mainly because it does "not solve the problem of Jerusalem," He maintained that the legislation was passed in light of what he described as "special interest politics."

But the retired diplomat said there is "growing dissi-dence" among Israelis, some

mounting an early dry season

offensive against government

troops in southern Sudan and

have made their biggest adv-

ance in four years, aid work-

ers and diplomats said on

be identified, said they con-

firmed through what one cal-

led "relatively independent

sources" that the Sudan Peo-

ple's Liberation Army

(SPLA) had seized the south-

ern town of Parajok on

Wednesday and pushed

the largest rehel advance

since 1991. What they seem

to have done is beaten Khar-

toum in the race to kick off

the dry season," a diplomat

Wondu said on Friday that

the rehels, after killing

wounding or dislodging some

3.000 Sudanese troops from Parajok on Wednesday, had

pushed up to 80 kilometres

"Our information is fight-

ing started on Thursday in

Magwe," said Mr. Wondu.

"The enemy forces ahan-

doned the villages of Obo

and Palotaka after Parajok so

the main enemy force is out-

Aid officials had uncon-

The general command of

the Sudanese armed forces in

Khartoum said in a statement

firmed reports of fighting in

SPLA spokesman Steve

'It appears significant. It is

northwards.

told Reuters.

north.

Magwe.

The workers, declining to

of whom believe they should confront the issue of Jerusalem now, and others who believe Israel should "surrender assets." Mr. Lewis believes that among Palestinians, Yasser Arafat is playing the Jerusalem card because of its importance to his people and to underline the fact that Gaza bas been less

than what they expected. He went on to stress that the Palestinian entity "has to have a relationship to Jerusalem" otherwise peaceful existence will be in peril. Mr. Lewis said ir was the

United States which now brought the Jerusalem issue to the fore -- "to the front

Among the commentators also was Marshaii Breger, a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation and a visiting professor at the Catholic University of America who bas beld several high positions in the Department of Labour and was once President Reagan's liaison to the Jewish community.

Mr. Breger noted that the location of an embassy "does not mean we recognise the city where it is located as the capital," citing as examples East Berlin in the former East Germany, and Abuja, Nigeria. He added that in 1999, if the law is enforced, the U.S. embassy will be in West Jerusalem — "which is agreed upon in the American context as Israeli."

Mr. Breger outlined the U.S. stance regarding Jerusalem since 1967, saying it finctuated between the position of the former U.S. amhassador to the United Nations, Arthur Goldberg, who shortly after the Six-Day War said the 1967 Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem 'cannot be hut interim," and former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Charles Yost who cause declared that East Jerusalem ing."

the Parajok direction.

It said rebel pockets moved

against the area after failing

elsewhere and it accused

Uganda of supporting the

them with courage and hero-

Asked what had changed

to reverse SPLA fortunes.

analysts said the SPLA had

received increased support

from the Ugandan govern-

ment, which is angered by

attacks from Ugandan rebels

with bases in south Sudan.

"We are unclear whether

this just means arms or what

hut the Ugandan connection

is the only factor that har-

this year to go to Sudan

themselves to hit at the rebels

but the SPLA is now doing

er, said the SPLA might en-

counter stiff resistance from

the government army and the

conflict remained unwinn-

Uganda flatly denies back-

ing the SPLA in its 12-year-

old war against Khartoum for

greater autonomy of inde-

pendence for the Christian

and animist south from the

Muslim and Arahised north.

relations with Sudan in April.

accusing Khartoum of back-

ing rebels of the Lord's Re-

sistance Army, a fun-

damentalist Christian group.

Uganda hroke diplomatic

Some aid officials, howev-

"The Ugandans threatened

dened," one said.

the joh for them.

ism," the army added.

"Our forces faced

is "occupied Arab territory." At any rate, successive U.S. administrations bave held that the holy city should "re-main unified," whereas American politicians bave supported both unification

and the emhassy move.
Mr. Breger, who published several articles on the subject of Jerusalem, maintained that the president should keep in mind three factors in deciding on the move: access to holy places; whether the move would lead to a "more stable environment" and specifically wbether a Palestinian entity can "survive without a foothold in Jerusalem"; and what effect this law will have on the peace process.

The third discussant in the panel was UCLA political science professor Steven Spiegel who specialises in foreign policy in the Middle East and who served as a Middle East advisor to then-Governor Bill Clinton in 1992. Spiegel said it is the wrong time to bring the embassy issue to the forefront and that "we ought to let the Israelis and Arabs make their decision" regard-

ing Jerusalem.
Mr. Spiegel enumerated the benefits of the peace process to Israel, including an improved economy, its wel-come status in Eastern Europe and countries like Japan and India, and its gaining compacts and normalisa-

The issue of Jerusalem, be said, has great and serious problems, potentially, hur it is not an issue we, "as Americans, should exacerhate." He opined that "we can facilitate the peace process such that Jerusalem will not be a deal breaker but a deal sealer." He reiterated that the parties "have to decide the future (on the city) because they are doing the talk-

Sudan rebels launch early dry season assault in south NAIROBI (R) - Rebels are on Thursday that a battle had "We are fed up with these been under way with the SPLA for the past few days in insmuations that we cannot

> nothing," said the SPLA's Wondu. "We are fighting the government of Sudan." The dry season officially starts in three weeks in the south and lasts until April and is the best period for

do anything without Ugan-

dan support. Uganda gives us

Sudan's government forces have launched dry season offensives for several years and last year tried but failed to capture SPLA bases just north of Sudan's border with

"The rebels apparently heard the government would start activities in three weeks and pre-empted it. They took the initiative for the second year in a row." an aid official

"It appears to be a different story from the years before. Now it is a security problem for Uganda. A SPLA success in the region just north of the border is in

the interests of Uganda." The offensive followed a series of ceasefires in the south since April negotiated by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, but he himself bad warned that warfare was

possible in the dry season.

An estimated 1.3 million people have died during the civil war from the conflict itself and related famine. Nearly three million people have been forced from their homes in the south.

Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub ... 779797 Dr. Awni Al Hawamdeh ... 832350

Dr. Khalil Al Tuslug .....

Firas pharmacy ....

Ferdows pharmacy ... Al Asema pharmacy

Nairoukh pharmacy

# himself, official says

DUBAI (Agencies) - A Saudi national suspected of bombing a crowded mosque committed suicide on Thursday after firing at policemen. who surrounded his hideout, the Interior Ministry said.

Saudi Television, quoting an Interior Ministry statement, said a Saudi security man was killed inadvertently by friendly fire during the The statement said that af-

ter surrounding his hideout in the rugged mountainous area of Wadi Tours, the security forces called on the suspect, Abdullah Ben Mohammad Ben Sa'ad Al Amri, repeatedly to surrender. Instead, "he opened fire at

them from a rifle... which forced the forces to toss a gas bomb at him and to advance towards him. "When he found that they

are closing on bim, he blew up himself with a bomh similar to that he previously used in attacking the mosque, and he died instantly," the statement added.

Eight people were killed in the attack last Friday in a crowded mosque in Quba village in Bisha, a mountainous trihal area in the western

province of Asir. Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz was quoted by the television as saying that King Fahd ordered the post-mortem promorion of the killed policeman 10 a higher rank and of paying his family 200,000 Saudi riyals (\$53,000).

The King also ordered that the families of the victims should each receive 100.000 riyals (\$26,660). Prince Navef The Saudi police had inten-

sified their search for Amri, a retired non-commissioned officer who had served in Saudi civil defence. hy using airplanes in mountain re-

The Saudi government moving swiftly 10 quell speculation of political dissent, said Amri had been involved in a dispute over land with some people in the mosque.

### Arab League denies blacklisting Giuliani

League on Friday denied re-ports that it had blacklisted anniversary celebrations. The State Department, the the mayor of New York for expelling Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat from a concert

earlier in the week. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) semi-official daily Al Ittihad reported on Friday that Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Au-. thority, had asked the Arah League to urge its 22 members to bar the entry of New York Mayor Rudolph

But the league secretary general, Esmat Abdul Meguid, told AFP: "This is the first time I have heard such reports. During my meeting with Arafat on Wednesday in Cairo he did not ask that rbe mayor of New York be put on the list of parties and people boycot-ted by the Arab League."

Giuliani.

Al Ittihad said Mr. Giuliani was to he considered as persona non grata who is banned from entering all Arab countries" after he expelled Mr. Arafat from Mon-

day's concert for world leaders attending the U.N. 50th

United Nations. Arah-Americans and even the Jewish former maynr of New York, Ed Koch, hlasted Giuliani while U.N. Secretary General Bouros Ghali was reported to have apologised tti Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Giuliani had made it clear last week that Mr. Arafat and Cuhan President Fidel Castro were not welcome at the concern, hut Palestinian officials said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader had been invited by the United

At the United Nations. Arab diplomats said they wanted Mr. Giuliani harred from the U.N. headquarters and condemned fur "unacceptable behaviour.

On Friday, representatives of 21 Arah countries and the PLO organised a committee to consider a response 10 Mr. Giuliani's action.

### 7 indicted in illegal **American** exports to Iran

Queen tel

egion mu

COLUMBUS (R) - Seven people have been indicted in an alleged conspiracy to export sensitive electronics equipment to Iran, the Justice Department said on Thursday.

"The shipment of sensitive military radios, scramblers and decoders to a rogue state such as Iran is a serious threat to national security," said Femund Sargus, U.S. atter-ney for Obio's southern dis-

The seven indicted include wo Iranian-horn U.S. citizens and an official of the Iranian Defence Ministry. If convicted the defendants could face millions of dollars in fines and long prison terms, Mr. Sargus said.

Only the two Iranian-Americans are in the United States, Mr. Sargus said. The others live either in Iran, which does not have an extradinon treaty with the United States, or the United Arah Emirates.

The two U.S. citizens were released from custody after surrendering their passports, Mr. Sargus said.

Two trading companies based in Tehran and the United Arah Emirates were also indicted.

"The U.S. Customs Service considers this case to be among the most significant export enforcement investigations in the country in recent years," said Craig Ziegler, resident agent in charge of the Customs Ser-

The indictments charge that between 1991 and 1994. about \$500,000 in electronics, communication equipment, computers and other items were exported without an export licence, Mr. Sargus said.

Radio encryption devices, which can be used to scramble intelligence messages, were of special concern, Mr. Sargus told Reuters.

Federal law probibits any export of some items due to their military sensitivity, and the national defence authorisation act of 1992 specifically prohibits shipment to Iran of any of the items involved.

The 43-count indictment contains charges of conspiracy, money laundering, fraudand illegal exporting and seeks forfeiture of cash and property, Mr. Sargus said.

in play a

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Charged were Elham Abrishami, 42, and Mohsen Abrishami, 42, a married couple who live in Dublin, a Columbus suburb, Behrouz Dolatzadeh, an official with the Iranian Defence Ministry in Tebran, Mobammad Salehizadeh, Hassan Gholan Ali Fallah and Ali Derakhshan, all of Tehran, and Jimsheed Khodaghlipour of Hanofeel General Trading Est., a United Arab Emirates company,

Mr. Sargus said. Hanofeel and Tak Neda Co. Ltd. of Tehran were the companies indicted, Mr. Sargus said.

The indictments charge that through the trading companies, the defendants shipped the items to the United Arab Emirates and from there to Iran, Mr. Sargus

The indictments also charge that with an unnamedco-conspirator, the U.S. couple had invoices and state. ments related to the export, altered. The indictments also charge that money to buy the equipment was wired from Iranian banks into accounts in the U.S. controlled by the Abrishamis.

### party to allow debate BAGHDAD (R) — Presi-

Saddam tells Baath

dent Saddam Hussein has told leading members of lrag's ruling Baath Party to allow more open public dehate on government policy.

Addressing leaders of Baath Party branches, mass organisations and made unions, he said the presidential referendum last week in which he won more than 99 per cent of the vote showed that loyal Iraqis need not fear they were alone.

"So it's no shame for you to say to your people that you want to carry out such-andsuch an idea and what do you think? To say we want to lead you and we want you to say that's wrong and what's right in the way we lead you." he "Or to say we want to

mobilise you so tell us how to mobilise you... there's plenty of scope for individual judge-

President Saddam, in a speech delivered on Wednesday and broadcast on Thursday, and broadcast on Thursday, said the referendum had set a precedent for taking initiatives.

"It was the first time this has happened on such a scale. It was also the first time the party and the people have been left a wide margin to innovate, because there are details no committee or leader can cover." he said. 'To leave a margin for interaction, innovation and inioanve, you must rely on rhe method of guidance rather than instruction. general guidance, that is setting the target and the basic

ways towards the target? President Saddam was vague about what the target might be, hur it certainly included economic development, defendine Iraq against foreign enemies and asserting Iraq's natural role as "the intellect, the conscience and the sword of the Arah Na-

He said the referendum took an historic decision because the Iraqi people had faced two paths — "the path of retreat, of submitting their will to the foreigner, or the path which expresses their authenticity and their patriot-

He said the 3,052 Iraqis who voted "no" in the referendum would not have done so if they had known that everyone ise was going to vote, "Yes."
He added: "The weak at

heart will pull themselves together afte seeing that everyone voted "Yes" and those who had disease in their hearts will seek treatment and those who wished ill on Iraq from abroad will all despair.

### End to strike comforts Ciller, but snags remain

ANKARA (R) - Be-leaguered Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has been hoosted by the end of a big lahour strike, but doubts over planned early polls and the economic strains of a workers' pay rise deal still cloud her horizon.

Her aim of sealing a cus-toms union with Europe ahead of polls set for December remains in the halance as Turkey's European allies appear disappointed with an appeals court decision to release just two of six jailed Kurdish deputies.

Thousands of state workers returned to work on Friday after a five-week strike ended when the government and trade unions reached a pay rise settlement worth \$1.3 hil-

"Most sectors are resuming work immediately from today," said Yildirim Koc, a senior official at Turkey's largest trade union confederation Turk-IS, which struck the pay deal with Ms. Ciller's government on Thursday.

He told Reuters all workers who took part in the strike that helped sink Ms. Ciller's minority government in a confidence vote earlier this month would be back at work by Monday.

The end of the strike of up to 335,000 public workers comes as immediate relief for Ms. Ciller, but Thursday's big pay settlement, expected to cost \$1.3 hillion in 1995 alone, will hamper her efforts to cure the economy's rampant ills.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Lebanon forest fires put out

BEIRUT (R) - Civil defence workers have put our 92 forest and bush fires raging in muuntains and hills acruss Lebanon, Interior Minister Michel Al Murr said on Friday.
"A total of 92 fires started on Thursday in various Lehanese regions have been put out," Mr. Murr told Reuters. He said the fires were caused by hot weather. A civil defence official said firefighters were still battling a blaze in a mountain region near the village of Jeeta, about 20 kilometres northeast of Beirut. The official National News Agency said the fires desitoyed dozens of hectares of foresis. In November 1993, British air force Wessex helicopters helped douse forest fires in mountains southeast of Beirui.

#### Murder of Italian linked to Somali clan rivalry

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A Somali newspaper said Friday an Italian female doctor murdered in Somalia earlier this week was killed due to rivalry between two sub-clans of Mohammad Farah Aideed's larger Habr Gedir group. Graziella Fumagalli was shot dead on Sunday and her culleague, biologist Christoforo Andreoli, received setious facial injuries when four gunmen stormed a hospital run hy the humanitarian group Caritas-Italia in Merca, 100 kilometres south of Mogadishu, and opened fire. The Panorama newspaper said that the Duduble sub-clan, to which the gunmen belonged, had complained Caritas-Italia was "dominated" by employees from the Ayr sun-clan. In another development, the chairman of the Metea-based Southern Somalia National Movement, Abdi Warsame Issak, said the murder of Fumagalli was "politically motivated" and dismissed claims there were religious reasons behind it.

### Two Swiss nationals drown in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) - Two Swiss nationals have drowned while swimming in the sca at the Cyprint resort of Protaras, the official Cyprus News Agency reported. It identified the two as Adolf Meier, 42, and Heidi Muller, 52. The twn drowned when they went swimming Thursday afternoon, ignoring warnings by lifeguards that the sea was 100 rough.

#### Mrs. Rajavi arrives in Oslo

AMMAN (J.T.) - Maryam Rajavi, the president of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, has arrived in Oslo and was received by leading memhers of all five main political parties of the country, the ruling Labour Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Centre Party, the Socialist Party, and the Conservative Party, and members of the Norwegian parliament. Members of the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights and Values in Iran also received Mrs. Rajavi. The Norwegian police set up unprecedented security measures for the arrival of Mrs. Rajavi, and press reports described her as "the Iranian regime's No. 1 enemy" and the woman who has "vowed to topple the Khomeini regime." According to Massoud Rajavi, the chairman of the National Council of Resistance of Iran. Tehran tried its best to obstruct the trip.

### Informer shot dead by militants in Egypt

MINYA (AFP) — Militants on Friday shot dead a Christian tractor driver who helped Egyptian security forces flush out fundamentalists hiding in sugarcane fields, police said. Samir Kamal Atallah, 25, was killed as he was walking in the streets of the village of Al Roda close to Mallawi, 300 kilometres (186 miles) south of Cairo. He had also supplied police with information leading to the arrests of militants from his home village, the nearby Al Bayadiya.

#### JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

	14:00 Back to the Future
	14:30 Harry and the Hendersons
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	16:10 Love Lucy
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**PRAYER TIMES** 

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771781. Amman International Church Tel. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tcl: 824328.

Fajr (Sunrise) Duha Ohuhr Asr Maghreh	Bulletin supplied by the Dep- ment of Meteorology.
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menian Catholic Church Tel.	Deserts 12/ 27
1331.	Jordan Valley 21 / 311
menian Orthodox Church Tel.	

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Tel. 811295

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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	Highway Police 843402
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Telephone Information

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Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669[3]
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic. Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777111/3
Al Carlin L. A. Es-Cala Transport
Al-Bashir J. Ashralich 775111/26
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The Arah Centre for Heart and
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7.00.
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983325
Zarua National Hospital
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lbn Sina Hospital 119)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)993990

#### Princess Basma Hospital . Greek Catholic Hospital Ihn Al Nalees Hospital ... (02)272275 . (02)247)00 Princess Haya Hospital ...... (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueen Aha In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53281-5, where it should always be regri-**ARRIVALS** Royal Jordanian (RJ)

**AIRPORT** 

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# 7 indicted in illegal Queen tells Israeli daily all parties in exports to Iran

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Mr. Surgus said.

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American region must be able to define their rights TEL AVIV (AP) —Closer ties will be difficult "until the shapment of the hard the h there is a feeling that all the

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it this is defence Manage They are following you with seven eyes because we could fine millions of could fine millions of a re still in a stage of uncerin times and long and long are still in a stage of the terms. There are many suspicions concerning everything that is happening."

Mates Mr. Samuel.

A year after the historic

peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, Queen Noor has yet to visit Israel or even to meet many

Queen Noor is not the only Jordanian staying away from the Jewish state. only 3,000 Jordanians had visited Israel by September of this year, compared to 73,000 Israelis visiting Jor-

Queen said she would like to learn more abont Israel and Judaism and to visit Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza — "something I couldn't do up to now because of the occupa-

"And of course Jerusalem," she added. The Queen said she and His Majesty King Hussein share a deep desire for peace in the Middle East.

"This is an issue that deepened the ties between ns even before we got married," she said.

King Hussein, the Queen said, is "a sby and quiet man.

"I have become a better human being with his help and his influence," she said "Not only did he deepen my knowledge, but also my feelings for others and my parience, even my love, and mainly my faith, faith in myself, faith in humanity."

The Queen said she was not sure until the last minute last year that there would be peace with Israel. But, she added, "I have lived in the region for 20 years, I had a hunch that

towards a peace agree-

were leading

things

### **Princess Sarvath praises achievements** of UWC national committee, students

AMMAN (J.T.) - HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan met with members of the Jordan National Committee of the United World Col-The U.S. Customs, leges as well as several stuvice considers this cases dents who benefited from attione the most signs the scholarship programme North enforcement a sponsored by the National Committee, a Royal Court statement said.

Princess Sarvath, who recently ended her more than one decade chairmanthe tetween 1901 and ship of the committee, down victor more expressed her pleasure at manifestion equips having worked with the committee members and was apported without thanked them for their supis a conce Mi Sames port and interest during the Station encryption der past years in selecting Jorwhich can be used use danian scholarship students to study abroad, the state-

The Princess said she values her 12 years of association with the United World



Colleges and is prond of the achievements of the Jordanian students who benefited from the scholarship programme.

At the meeting, Wednesday, the students and members thanked Princess Sarvath for personally initiating the scholarship programme, and for setting the norms and the standards of ohiectivity in selection, and most of all for her concern for the welfare of each stu-

# Delegations start arriving for MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra)—Arriving in Amman Friday ahead of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit were delegations from Canada, Russia, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Yemen, Singapore and New Zealand.

Among those arriving were Canada's Foreign Minister André Ouellet, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Posovalyuk, Palestinian National Authority (PNA) under secretary of Planning Majdi Khaled and representatives of the Federations of Chambers of Commerce in the West

Bank and Gaza and the Palestinian Businessmen's Association, Saudi Arabia's minister of trade, Ousama Ben Jaffar Faqih, Qatar's under secretary of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Yousef Hussein Kamal, and the president of the Qatari Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Harnad Ben Jassem Al Thani, a

Yemen's deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development, Abdul Qader Bajamal, the under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ghaleh Ali Jamil and the under secretary of the Free Zonses Corporation, Abdul Karim Muteir, and New Zealand's Amhassador to Turkey.

Singaporean delegation,

Canadian Foreign Minister André Ouellet, who is leading a large delegation from his ministry and the International Development Agency (CIDA), said that his country will suhmit several project proposals which have already been discussed with

Mr. Onellet said his conntry appreciates King Hussein's efforts and his role in

His Majesty King Hussein

during his last visit to Cana-

convening the Amman summit. The summit will offer participants the opportunity to contribute to the peace process through

regional projects, he said. Peace efforts by the world community to establish stahility in the Middle East will, in turn, reflect most positively on international relations, added Mr. Ouel-

The Canadian delegation, comprising members of its private and public sectors, reflects the country's commitment to helping make the conference a success as well as its determination to contribute to the implementation of investment pro-

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and senior officials along with Canadian Amhassador to Jordan Michel de Salaberry welcomed the Canadian minister and bis delegation upon arrival.

In his arrival statement, Mr. Posovalyuk said that Russia hopes the MENA summit will be directed at achieving integration between the economies of the Middle East countries.

The Russian delegation will suhmit proposals for projects on water desalination, and energy as well as railway and road construction schemes and gas, oil and water pipelines and will hack efforts for establishing a Middle East Development and Investment Bank, Mr. Posovalyuk

Khalid Usseili, a husinessman from the West Bank who arrived with the Palesinian delegation told Petra that "in order for the peace process to succeed, it should be coupled with an development plan to improve the region's economic performance, change the hostile

atmosphere which pre-



Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Kabariti Friday receives Canadian Foreign Minister André Ouellet upon his arrival in Amman to attend the Middle East and North Africa economic summit which starts Sunday (Petra photo)

vailed in the region in the past, and alter the quality of life of the citizens.

Mr. Usseili stressed that the MENA summit is the mechanism to ensuring economic development.

He said participants in the conference should demonstrate to the ordinary citizen that a tangihle improvement will result from the peace making

Mr Usseili stressed the importance of providing financing to the regional projects in order to ensure the success of the peace

husinessman from Jerusalem said the MENA summit will contribute to enhancing the Middle East peace process. Ghazawi said Hanna "Palestinian businessmen will initiate dialogue with Jordanian and Arah husinessmen on setting up development projects, particularly in the area of tourism and housing."
Saudi Minister of Trade

Ousama Benn Jaffar Faqih said he was glad to be visiting his "second country, the Hasbemite Kingdom of Jordan," a praised the special relations between Jordan and Saudi Arahia. Mr. Faqih said the MENA summit is a positive and impor-

tant step on the path of

enhancing regional peace and security. He wisbed the conference every success. Sheikh Hamad of Qatar said that his country has prepared 22 proposals for the summit, adding that

MENA is a cootinuation of the Casablanca economic summit which was held last The Singaporean delega-

tion was led by Chairman

mittee of Parliament Niman Ben Yousef who arrived in Amman from the West Bank Friday. Mr. Ben Yousef said his

delegation intends to scrutinise the various proposals and projected schemes on the agenda before deciding on its participation.

He added that his country was keen on contributing to the construction of sea and air ports in which it has wide experience.

Yemen's deputy prime minister and minister of planning said in his arrival statement that the conference will enhance Jordan's drive to attain a comprehensive peace

The Yemeni delegation will suhmit several proposals, one of which is for the creation of a free-trade zone in Aden as one of the

## Minister outlines how universities can play a post-MENA role

Mi Might ter of Higher Education Ratch Saoud Friday said the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic and the live in Date summit is not to be regard-Committee Suburb. B ed as an international con-10. It man Petered & sortium of donor countries, adding that participants to MENA are not coming here . Juliu Mehammadi to help fund Jordan's teluan and wiversities or other institu-

tons. and Linding Estab participation in Control Contrates of the MENA by the countries higher education institutes, said Dr. Saond, consists of the land of lehran we a working paper on the mes indicted Mr. capabilities of the Jordanthe malectments & ian universities and their to the training to support ... the detendants economic projects.

The minister said Jordan's five state and eight private universities in addition to AL al Bayt Universiinternational nature, have a total of 2,700 Ph.D. holders teaching in various disciplines and scieoces.

Dr. Saoud added that more than 55,000 students are enrolled at these including universities. 10,000 non-Jordanian stu-

He said universities can play a role in conducting feasihility studies for investment projects in Jordan, preparing engineering, technical and construction designs for the various projects, and in providing training.

They also can carry out assessments for various projects and work ont solntions to problems which might impair the smooth implementation of the vari-

AMMAN (Petra) -- Minis- ty which has an ous economic schemes in question.

He noted that most of the Jordanian universities have specialised departments capable of carrying out such tasks, including consulting and technical services cetatres.

Dr Saoud said Jordan ranks third worldwide in terms of the number of students in the 18-23 age group who are enrolled in higher education institutions.

He said that investment in private-sector education has become an example for the region, adding that 25,000 students are enrolled in the six private universities in the Kingdom. The first of these, he said, was established six years ago. . .

# IAF weekly asks Rawabdeh about politics in schools, peace process and Iraqi defector

teachers should not be politically active at schools and instead should dedicate themselves solely to their educative mission, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh said in an interview with Al A'mal, the weekly magazine of the Islamic Action Front.

Teachers who wished to discuss politics should do so in their own political forums, he said.

In an interview with the Islamic Action Magazine, Mr. Rawabdeh said that the Ministry of Education does not want to see schools serving as political arenas in the same way that the government does not want to see mosque minbars (pulpits) serving as political rostrums.

"We have allowed the opponents of the peace process to air their views television openly on because the government favours dialogue, hut it does not accept accusations of treachery levelled at it,"

AMMAN (J.T.)—School said Mr. Rawabdeh, him-Muslim Brotherhood

Asked why the government had failed to denv accusations by Salameh Ne'matt in the Londonbased Al Hayat newspaper that government officials were among Jordanians who had received payments from Iraq, Mr. Rawabdeh said it was the duty of the government and Parliament to investigate cases of monetary corruption.

Mr. Rawabdeh said that referring the case to court is an exercise of democracy and he denied that the government was involved in

"We respect Mr. Ne'matt as a person, hut he has to disclose to the court the name of officials who gave him the information and those who received money," said the minister.

When asked whether 90 per cent of the projects to be suhmitted to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit



Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh

were related to services and tourism, and if they entailed the creation of service sector jobs for Jordanians as a way to end unemployment, Mr. Rawabdeh said Jordan has a duty to provide facilities and services because husiness cannot be conducted without telephones, roads, railways or airports

Asked why Iraq was not invited to the conference, Mr. Rawabdeh said circumstances concerning the sanctions do not allow that country's participation, hut he added that despite Iraq's absence, Iraqi-Jordanian relations would not likely to be affected.

Syria and Lebanon both have important roles in the region, and without them no comprehensive peace can be anticipated, the minister said in reply to a ques-non on both countries' absence at the conference.

The minister said that Jordan had extended invitations to Damascus and Beirut but had received no reply in return.

The minister was asked whether there were differences in views among members of the Cahinet

concerning the Iraqi defector, Hussein Kamel. Opponents of the government claim that such differences exist, the minister

said. But he also added that

"differences in views is

ural, hut in this case there were no differences in views, and the government was dealing with this matter in a very satisfactory and successful manner."

something healthy and nat-

Asked about Jordan's relations with Syria, Saudi Arahia and Kuwait, the minister said that reconciliation was always Jordan's solution, and that the country will work relentlessly to end inter-Arah differences. On his views of the Islam-

ic Action Front Party, the minister said he respected the front and its role despite the fact, be said, that it sometimes acts in an undemocratic manner.

He said the government welcomes the opposition views hut prefers dialogue and the democratic approach.

Asked if it was true that as Minister of Education be had bired thousands of people from his election district, the minister strongly denied the allegation.

### 'Blind women must get career training to gain their independence'

Paintings by Salam Kanaan and ceramics by Najwa Annab and Margaret Tadros at

\*Paintings by Iraqi artists Nazem Hamed

\*Paintings hy Iraqi artist Saleh Jumai'i at

\*Paintings by Shakir Hassan Al-Said at the French Cultural Centre. Posters on Louis Pasteur's achievements.

in science. Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel Inter-

One of the resolutions is to include Braille in vocational rehabilitation programmes, in order to eradicate illiteracy and give women a wider range of

Braille in a carpet weaving programme, from there I continued my education and received a Pb.D. in history," said Sa'eeda Husni. In order for a hlind person

to function on an equali stressed.

any country," said Kiki

Norstom, president of the International Blind Women's Committee.

Possessing these skills, personal grooming, and bousekeeping, will create self-confidence and independence, said Ruth Chambers in ber lecture on independence for blind

Ms.Chambers also added that this independence will enable the hlind to overcome shyness and help them to be more assertive.

The workshop participants elected four women to represent the Middle East and North Africa region at next year's World Blind Union General Assembly.

This four-member committee will coordinate together for the next 10 months, to define problems concerning hlind women in the region.

Hala Kubesis,22, who was elected to the committee, told the Jordan Times that the inability of some families and society to accept hlind women can stand in the way of their

to have self-confidence, which gives as more energy to move and change." said Ms. Kubesis who is in her fourth year at university in Lebanon.

She added that, "as hlind women we never see ourselves in the mirror and assume we are ugly and will never find love.

low self- esteem disap-

peared," she said.

Helen Shabih, also elected to the new committee, said schools for the blind are not only the responsibility of charitable organisations, but that the government should shoulder their responsibility in that arena as well,

At the end of the conference, a nine-year-old student from The Noor School for the Blind told the Jordan Times that when she grows up she is going to become a lawver.

"I want to spread justice," said Rawan Barakat - no doubt already sensing the discrimination her elder colleagues have said they

FILM

"Oliver Twist" at Instituto Cervantes at

**SEMINAR** 

Mohammad Ali at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Gardens Street at 6.30pm. LECTURE

"Between Art and Music" by As'ad

MARKET PRICE "The Future of the Palestinian Banking System (Arabic, by Dr. Fouad Bseiso, govemor of the Palestine Central Bank, at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6.00pm.

**BOOK FAIR** 

\* Fifth International Book Fair at the Universal Expo Centre, University Road

### BANI HAMIDA FALL EXHIBITION

\* The Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Pro ject presents "Winds of Change" its fall exhibition at the Jerusalem Insurance Company in Shmeisani (tel. 658696)

**EXHIBITIONS** 

Alia Art Gallery.

at Orfali Gallery.

By Lola Keilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of professional women concluded at a five-day workshop that the way to help hlind women in the Arab World gain their independence is through rehabilitation programmes for that focus on career training. The women, who drafted and passed resolution on this particular issue, were themselves all blind.

With proper career training blind women can take their rightful place in the community, they said in introducing their resolutions which are to be presented to the General Assembly of the World Blind Union, in Toronto, Canada, next year.

choices. "I was introduced to

hasis with others in the sighted world, courses on child care, mobility training skills, and home economics should also he available to hlind women, the workshop participants

"To my knowledge these courses are not available in

enjoying their full rights. We need support in order

Through my education 1 gained confidence, and my

# India amends election law to prepare for Kashmir polls

NEW DELHI (AFP) - tions. India has amended a key election law to hold the first legislative polls since 1987 in Kashmir in a desperate government attempt to end country's most intractable problem, officials said Friday.

Under Indian election laws, if a candidate for parliamentary or state legislative elections dies or is killed, polling in the consutuency is put off until a later date which can be weeks away.

But this rule has now been changed "so that (Muslim) militants don't resort to killing candidates left and right to sabotage the election," an official of the Home Ministry said.

The death of a candidate in the proposed elections. already postponed several times by New Delhi, will no longer be grounds for cancelling voting in the concerned constituency, offi-

Under the amended legislation, political parties would be allowed to substitute their nominees who die or are slain before polling without affecting the elec-

YEREVAN (AFP) — An

Armenian nuclear reactor at

a power station shnt down

after a huge earthquake

more than six years ago was

switched back on again

overnight, the government

The reactor, one of two at

the Oktemberian plant, is at

minimum power hut is due

to be connected to the

power network in two

normal capacity of nine mil-

lion kilowatts per hour hy

The plant, in an earth-

TOKYO (R) — Japan's

Defence Ministry proposed

Friday to cnt about 20 per

cent of its allowed quota of

first comprehensive review

of the country's military

strength in two decades,

The Defence Ministry's

proposed cuts will form the

hasis of a new, post-cold

war version of Japan's long-

term defence policy guide-

line, called the defence pro-

gramme outline, to be issued in December. The

current one was adopted in

Murayama will take this

table (ministry's draft pro-

posal) into account to pre-

pare the new programme

outline," top government

spokesman Koken Nosaka

told a news conference

The latest ministry pro-

posal was submitted in

Friday's National Security

Council meeting chaired by

Prime Minister Tomiichi

Murayama, the highest

decision-making organ on defence issues. The council

will finalise a new outline in

Until 1990, Japan's Defence Ministry had been

officially describing the

Soviet Union as a "latent

threat". With its demise,

however, the government

Under the 1976 pro-

gramme, Japan achieved a

Minister

officials said.

1976.

Friday.

December.

withdrew that.

"Prime

troops and weapons in the year.

quake-prone area 30 kilo-

the end of November.

weeks and be running at

said Friday.

A similar amendment was also made ahead of the February 1992 balloting to elect a local government in the neighbouring state of Puniab at the height of a hloody Sikh separatist campaign that has since been

New Delhi has also asked Kashmiri hureaucrats bere to be ready to go the northern state for the proposed elections, and has ordered a large fleet of hullet-proof cars for poll campaigning, the officials said.

The developments underline the Indian government's determination to hold the Kashmir polls despite boycott and sabotage threats by Muslim separatists waging an armed campaign in the Himalayan province since 1989.

Indian officials say an election would restore democratic process in the northern state, probably isolate guerrillas opposed to the polls as hardliners, and ease Western pressures on New Delhi over a political

Kashmir. India's only Muslim-majority state, has

Armenia reactivates Nuclear reactor

metres from the capital

Yerevan, was shut down

after an earthquake in

December 1988 in which

There are no plans to

reopen the other reactor in

the near future, according to

the government commu-

The relaunch of the reac-

ior will boost Armenia's

power supplies as it tries to

minimise the effect of an

energy embargo imposed by

neighbouring Azerbaijan

over the disputed territory

The enclave is in

Japan proposes to cut 20 % of military

with what was considered

the second higgest defence

hudget in the world — at

lion dollars more if military

pensions, which do not

come under defence outlays

in Japan, were added

according to the formula

accepted by NATO mem-

London-based International

Institute for Strategic

Studies (IISS) confirmed

what had long been pointed

out hy many military ana-

"With the possible excep-

tion of Russia. Japan now

spends appreciably more on

defence than any other

country apart from the

United States," said the

IISS's annual military bal-

1976 document set out to

achieve 180,000 troops in

the army, 60 surface vessels

in the navy and 350 fighters

in the air force to repel a

the army's size, have been

Most targets, except for

Friday's ministry draft

said the quota for the army's

troops will be reduced to

144,000 from a ceiling of

1g0,000. But the actual

number of troops in the

army now stands at about

158,800 because of long-

standing recruiting prob-

"limited aggression."

In terms of numbers, the

ance.

Earlier this month, the

of Nagoruo-Karabakh.

nique issued here.

some 25,000 people died.

been ruled directly by New Delhi since 1990. The last elections in 1987 were marked by allegations of vote fraud.

The current spell of federal rule over Kashmir ends in

Minister Home Shankarrao Chavan said last week that if the polls were again put off, "it would only encourage militants to create (more) trouble."

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao bas been trying to coax the pro-India National Conference Party, which once ruled Kashmir, to take part in the polls. Newspapers say its supremo Farooq Abdullah may be willing.

But Mr. Abdullah, a Muslim who is on the death list of Muslem militants, wants New Delhi to grant maximum autonomy to Kashmir before announcing the elections. Indian political parties are divided on

Mr. Rao directed his ministers this month to ensure the availability of foodgrains, kerosene, petrol and diesel in the strife-torn Kashmir Valley ahead of

Azerbaijan but controlled

by Armenian separatists and

more than 20,000 people

died in fighting there

between 1988 and a cease-

The International Atomic

Energy Agency gave

Armenian authorities the

green light to switch the

plant on again if modernisa-

Armenian experts said

however that, although the

power station had been

modernised, lack of cash

meant only the most urgent

The 13 divisions in the

army, called the Ground

Self-Defence Force, will be

said. New helicopter-

Of the army's 45,000

reservists, 15,000 will be

reservists who can serve at

48 hours notice, the draft

said. Tanks will be cut from

The navy, or Maritime

Self-Defence Force, will

slash 20 per cent of its 60

surface vessels, halve its

minesweeper fleet and reduce from 100 to 80 the

number of P-3C anti-sub-

marine planes. The 16-boat

submarine fleet will not be

The air force, or Air Self-

Defence Force, will cut 10

per cent of its frontline

strength of 350 fighters but

will ask to introduce air-

refuelling tankers, the draft

Two of the army divisions

to be abolished are in

Hokkaido, the northernmost

main island facing Russia,

Ministry officials said cre-

ation of the helicopter-

mobile units was in

response to demands for a

quick-moving force to meet

acts such as the nerve gas

attack on Tokyo's subway

in March and natural disas-

ters like the massive earth-

quake that killed more than

5,000 people in Kobe in

the draft said.

work had been done.

more than \$50 hillion a reduced to eight, the draft

That would be several hil- mobile brigades will be

introduced.

designated

1,200 to 940.

affected.

tion work was carried out.

fire deal in May last year.

winning voter sympathy. Mr. Rao's Congress (I) Party says it has already begun an election campaign of sorts.

"We have held some public meetings for the first time in the (Kashmir) Valley," party spokesman Ved Prakash told AFP here. "People in Kashmir are sick and tired of violence and want elections."

but Muslim separatist leaders are equally firm on boycotting or sahotaging the elections, and say the polls would only result in more bloodshed in a state where more than 12,000 have been killed by official count since 1989.

Muslim leaders instead want a referendum to determine the future of Kashmir, whose ownership is disputed by India and Pakistan.

"The government can force elections on Kashmir ... but this will only be a fraud and not a permanent solution," said Shahir Shah. Kashmir's most respected Muslim leader. "It will not help things."

# Shooting ends S. Korea spy hunt

SEOUL (R) — A suspected North Korean spy was shot in South Korea Friday, ending a massive three-day manhuni involving 20,000 security forces, sniffer dogs and helicopters.

Authorities first said he had died at the scene of the shooting, then said he died of his wounds in a military hospital. A hospital spokesman said the man was hrain-dead but his heart was beating on a lifesupport system.

The alleged Communist infiltrator was shot and captured in rugged hills near the town of Puyo, 140 kilometres south of the capital Seoul.

He had been on the run. apparently nursing a bullet wound on his leg, since a gunfight with police Tuesday in which his colleague was shot and arrest-

The hospital spokesman said the alleged agent, identified as Park Kwang-Nam, 31, was flown to the capital.

Park was hit three times in the head and leg in thickly-wooded slopes where he had been hiding. He was spotted just 2.5 kilometres from the scene of the first

A Puyo police spokesman said one bullet wound on his leg apparently came from Tuesday's clash. He was found with a

Belgian-made browning pistol fitted with a silencer, four bullets, \$1,500 in \$100 hills, 9,000 won (about \$12) and a telephone card. Sonth Korea issued a

strong warning to Pyongyang over the alleged espionage incident, the second suspected infiltration by Communist agents in a week. "The government stemly

protests such irrational provocations by North Korea in the name of the (unified Korean) nanon's 70 million people," Information Minister Oh In-Hwan said. "If such provocations recur, we will not sit idly by."

ing to a U.N. report on waste. keepers spent two-and-ahalf times as much as they needed for water and overpaid a fuel contractor by loudspeaker almost \$1 million.

Roadhlocks were set up along highways around Puyo and the hunt extended as far north as Seoul.

admits holding slush fund if necessary.

tenure from 1987 to 1993 (AFP photo)

SEOUL (R) - South

Korea's former President

Roh Tae-Woo made a tear-

ful public apology Friday

for secretly amassing a

S654 million slush fund

while in office, sparking immediate calls for his

"I now feel limitlessly

shameful for being a former

president," he said in a tele-

text and occassionally wip-

ing away tears. Mr. Roh

said be raised 500 hillion

won (S654 million) in polit-

ical funds, keeping about 170 hillion won (\$222 mil-

lion) when he left office in

February 1993 after five

"Citizens how much frus-

tration and rage have you

felt in the past few days?."

Mr. Roh said. "It is natural

that you have hursting rage

and accusations towards

"This may sound like an

excuse. But such political

funds, although wrong.

have long been our political practice. he said, adding that the money was mostly

raised in the form of dona-

Mr. Roh was the last in a

line of military-backed

presidents that worked hand-in-glove with hig

alliance that powered South

Korea's economic develop-

He told the nation he

would report to legal

authorities for questioning

ment

tions from businessmen.

Reading from a prepared

vision address.

A statement by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party said it welcomed Mr. Roh's statement he was prepared to be questioned. But it added: "We expect prosecutors to thoroughly investigate the truth and details of secret funds."

Former South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo rubs his eye during a news conference at his home in Seoul to apologise for amassing a slush fund of \$650 million during his

Former South Korea president

The government's senior prosecutor, Ahn Kang-Min, said although the prosecution will look into the statement by Mr. Rob "there is no change in our policy of continuing our investiganion, regardless of his state-

The opposition Democranic Party dismissed Mr. Roh's apology as a sham and demanded his arrest

"In a word it was not an apology to the people hut nothing but a fraudulent drama deceiving the people," a party spokesman said. "The government and prosecution must immediately call Roh and arrest

Mr. Roh was finally forced into an apology after government prosecutors Thursday said they had uncovered a total of \$130 million of slush funds linked to him.

Revelations about his hidden fortune leaked out over husiness in an often sleazy a period of several days, mounting all the time and triggering a public outcry. Mr. Roh was ahandoned even by leaders of the ruling party, which he once led.

scandal

promising to clean up government. Mr. Roh's aides consissitting on illegal money.

tently denied Mr. Roh was even after his former top security aide stepped forward to say be managed a 48.5 hillion won (\$63million ) slush fund for his ex-

Tuesday last week when an opposition lawmaker told parliament he had been tipped off hy bankers and individuals that Mr. Rob had secretly amassed a political fortune of 400 hil-

Mr. Kim, visiting Hawaii,

The ruling party adopted a Thursday resolution demanding Mr. Roh reveal

In the Chinese capital Beijing, visiting South Korean opposition leader Kim Dac-Jung told reporters Friday Mr. Roh gave him two hillioo won (\$2.6 million) during the 1992 presidential election period, South Korean media

Flateyri is close to the

small village of Sudavik.

where 14 people were killed

in an avalanche in January.

the wake of a growing

debate over whether author-

ities should evacuate people

permanently from villages

in avalanche-prone areas,

particularly Sudavik and

Prime Minister David

Oddson, stranded in New

York by the airport closure

at home, told Icelandic

Television the disaster

would be discussed at a spe-

cial cabinet meeting Friday.

control nature but it is clear

that we must do something

about this problem. I don't

think anyone could have

foreseen that something like

this might happen again in

the same year," he said.

"We can never completely

Flateyri.

This avalanche came in

embarassed President Kim Young-Sam, a close Rob ally, as he leads the ruling party into general elections next April. Mr. Kim tonk power from Mr. Roh

scandai hroke The lion won (\$522 million).

iold Korean reporters accompanying him Friday he had twice told Prime Minister Lee Hong-Kon that the government must carry out a thorough investigation.

the truth and apologise.

#### Alec Baldwin arrested for battery

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Yeltsin

spend comforte night i

hospite

LOS ANGELES (R) -Alco Baldwin was arrested Thursday for allegedly punching a photographer who tried to take pictures of the movie star and his actress wife Kim Basinger as they arrived home with their new-born daughter. Police said Baldwin, 37. was booked on one count of misdemeanor battery and released on his own recognisance after the incident outside the couple's mansion in suburban Voodland Hills. Baldwin allegedly struck Aian Zanger, a freelance photographer well known among Hollywood's papparazi corps, as he waited to take pictures when Baldwin and Basinger drew up in their car. The 51-year-old photographer reportedly complained that his nose was broken. In a statement released Thursday night, Baldwin said he had repeatedly asked Mr. Zanger to leave his family alone. "Anyone with a shred of human decency would understand that there are times in your life when you want your privacy respected, whether you are a public figure or not," Baldwin said. "I do believe that bringing your wife and 3-day-old baby home from the hospital is one of those occasions. I asked him to repeatedly stop filming us and he refused each request," Baldwin said. "I dispute his contention that I hroke his nose or caused any facial damage." but Baldwin said he was "sorry for any problems caused and I look forward to Mr. Zanger and I putting this behind us." Mr. Zanger reportedly placed Baldwin under citizen's arrest after the incident. He told police Baldwin jumped out of the family car and hit him with a closed fist, according to television news reports.

#### **Cliff Richard** receives Knighthood.

LONDON (AP) -- Cliff Richard, Britain's most durable rocker, received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II Wednesday and said he was glad it wasn't just for singing. "It's no great shakes being a rock star, although I love it myself," said the 55-year-old new Sir Cliff. His award cites his charity work and that, he said, "lifts it above what I do for a living." He is reputed to be the favourite singer of the 95-year-old Queen Mother, Richard, who says be's been celibate since an affair with a guitarist's wife 30 years ago, has had 115 hits since the 1950s. including Bachelor Boy, Travellin' Light, and 'I Love You.

### **U.N.** institutes no smoking ban

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - As more than 100 world leaders discussed how the United Nations could meet the challenges of the 21st century, the world body sprung one immediate reform on them all: Banning smoking on its premises. The very day the 129 leaders were celebrating the U.N.'s 50th anniversary, the ban went into effect Tuesday at the U.N. Headquarters, one of the last hastions of resistance to New York's stringent anti-smoking laws. An internal communique announcing the measure said the organisation had the moral responsibility of providing a safe environment to its staff. But while most smokers in New York have to puff their cigarenes on the sidewalk, U.N. diplomats and staffers will be allowed to enjoy a sntoke in a few places exempt from the ban. One third of all eating areas inside the building will be reserved for smokers, as will the largest meeting halls, although the habit

will be "discouraged" at all

### substantial military huildup lems. Japan cult guru rehires lawyer

TOKYO (R) — The legal case involving the guru accused of masterminding the Tokyo suhway gas attack took a hizarre turn Friday when the cult leader reappointed the lawyer he had fired just two days earlier.

On Wednesday, the eve of his trial on charges of ordering the subway attack, Aum leader Shoko Asahara had sacked his private lawyer and thereby forced the Tokyo district court to call off the eagerly awaited proceedings at the last minute.

COUTL Then on Friday, with the trial might begin.

Japan still puzzling over his motives, Asahara promptly reinstated lawyer Shoji Yokoyama. Court officials said he made the move soon after the presiding judge ordered the selection of a separate, court-appointed lawyer to minimise disruption in the case.

Under Japanese law, murder trials cannot be held without at least one defence lawyer. A defendant can fire a privately hired lawyer but not one appointed by the

It was still not clear when

lt was also unclear whether the fire-and-rehire strategy was a deliberate ploy to delay the trial, as suggested by the Japanese media, or the result of mudcommunications hetween the lawyer and Asahara, founder and guru

of the Aum Shinri Kyo (Aum Supreme Truth Sect) doomsday cult. The move left Aumwatchers confounded.

"I don't know what these people are really up to hut they are just trying to make a fool of the court," said

lawyer Masaki Kito.

- The United Nations in Bosnia hought snowmohiles it never nsed, uniforms that were not needed and 1,400 generators, many of which were not even taken out of their crates, accord-

Security forces mounted one of the biggest manhunts ever in South Korea. mobilising reservists and pulling troops out of a joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise. Helicopters blasted appeals to the man to surrender and save his life.

of gross U. N. waste are contained in the first report by the new head of the U.N. Internal Oversight Agency. It comes after dozens of

#### 19 perish in Iceland avalanche tims were being withheld be diverted from Iceland Thursday.

while their relatives were

The avalanche struck a

residential area of the vil-

lage at four a.m. (0400

GMT) and buried 17 houses

in snow and ice. Flateyri

Emergency teams with

doctors and dogs nsed Coast

Guard boats and belicopters

to reach Flateyri - perched

on the side of a fjord - as

its roads were blocked in

The region suffers the

severest conditions in

Iceland's harsh winters.

Only last January it was

declared a danger zone

because of the avalanche

people of Flateyri," Justice

Minister Thorsteinn Palsson

Bad weather in the region

toppled electricity pylons

and closed most main roads.

International flights had to

"Our thoughts are with the

the had weather.

threat.

said.

has about 300 inhabitants.

notified.

least 19 people were killed when an avalanche smashed into a tiny village in north-west Iceland Thursday, sweeping away houses in its path, rescue workers said

Friday. Rescue officials said the only person still listed as missing was a one-year-old baby. The search continued into the night at the remote northwestern village of Flateyri, they added.

Rescuers, working in bliz-zards, dug out 10 people alive from under the snow, among them a family of four. Their house was destroyed hut they were unharmed.

An eyewitness described seeing snow and houses rumbling hy as he stood in his kitchen. "I saw the house next to mine come rushing past me, completely intact," said Gunnar

Valdimarsson. The identities of the vic-

In Somalia, U.N. peace-

These and other examples

U.N. watchdogs say waste rampant world leaders, including result of his oversight President Bill Clinton, marked the 50th anniver-

> reform and streamlining. "The hureaucracy has grown without pruning for many years, procedures and structures have become too rigid, frustrating creativity and individual initiative; overlapping and duplication of responsibilities have not been adequately addressed let alone eliminated," Karl

Paschke said in the report. The audit reviews the past seven and a baif months since the Oversight Agency was established. Mr. Paschke said that as a

department, some \$4 million in overpayments have been recovered or preventsary of the organisation ed and an additional \$13 with demands for financial million in savings has been identified. "Congress is always ready

to criticise, but clearly l must say that while it does not happen overnight, internal oversight is beginning to have an impact on the organisation," Mr. Paschke told reporters after releasing the report.

But he added that the U.N. financial crisis, caused in part by Washington's \$1.3 hillion debt to the organisation, is hampering efforts to

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### Yeltsin spendscomfortable night in hospital

Police said baldwing:
was brooked on one or
of misdenicanol bale
and released on his MOSCOW (R) - Russian trecognismee after the R President Boris Yeltsin dent muside the conspent a comfortable night Manston in subject to Comp. in hospital after being taken ill with a mild beart Accordance in the struct of the capter well known in atrack, but was expected to spend a week there recovering, top officials said Hollywood's paper

"He is ok, be is ok, he is ok," Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin reporters.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said Mr. Yeltsin, 64, was likely to spend a week at the Central Clinic-Hospital. He was rushed there by helicopter Thursday after being taken ill at a country retreat. Mr. Yeltsin's

spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, speaking separately to reporters in the Kremlin, said the president had spent a peaceful night and rose early as usual.

"At the moment his arterial pressure and temperature are normal," Mr. Medvedev said.

broke After news Thursday of Mr. Yeltsin's new bout of heart tronble, aides said the president had been exhausted by his trip to France and to the United States where he had a summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

He suffered a similar mild heart attack in July, apparently caused by the same "ischaemic coodition" in which the supply of oxygen is restricted.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, who would automatically take over as acting head of state if Mr. Yeltsin were incapacitated, said Mr. Yeltsin had not finished a course of treatment for a cold before leaving on his foreign trip last Friday.

The premier, speaking at an economic seminar, said he did not think the president's illness would have a negative impact on the campaign for Russia's Dec. 17 parliamentary election. there is no reason to worried about this," he

Aides have said there is no reason for a temporary transfer of power to Mr. Chemomyrdin, 57.

"There is no question of replacing Mr. Yeltsin. The president is in charge. There is no indication so far that he cannot carry out his duties," presidential spokesman Igor Ignatyev said Thursday.

The sudden illness has ruled out a visit to China schednled for Nov. 9 to 11 and may have dealt a blow to Russia's bopes of reasserting its role in Balkan diplomacy hy staging a Bosnia summit in Moscow next Tnesday. A visit by Mr. Yeltsin to Norway is also in doubt.

The news also sent jitters through world markets, more man toos with the German mark, Russian debt prices and the miles Sations and touble slipping. But the the hallenges of # overall market reaction cary the world be was restrained and some in the thirty traders even suggested Mr. Yeltsin's departure would clear the air in Moscow.



A woman keeps vigil over the bodies of her relative and a seven-day-old bahy killed in a suspected Tamil Tiger massacre of 24 civilians in the remote Sri Lankan hamlet of Hearthhaimillewa (AFP photo)

# U.S. rules out troop cuts in Japan; NATO team in Bosnia

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary William Perry ruled out reducing U.S. troop levels in Japan hut said Wednesday he was open to suggestions for ways to make the American presence there "more congenial" to local civilians. In an interview with news

agency reporters. Mr. Perry said he would be taking spe-cific proposals to Tokyo next week on how to defuse a growing crisis over the U.S. troop presence in Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of American forces in

beed inflamed by the Set 4 rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl Okinawan allegedly by two U.S. Marines and a sailor. Thousands of Okinawans protested against the U.S. military last weekend.

Mr. Perry, speaking in his Pentagon office, said he would consider changing the kinds of exercises U.S.

troops perform on Okinawa and other adjustments "to make it more congenial to the people who live in the proximity of our bases."

But he was firm in saying the overall size of the U.S. force in Japan would not be cot. He said be saw no sense in changing the number of American troops in any of the three key Asian posts: South Korea, Okinawa and Japan proper. It is the Clinton administratioo's policy to maintain 100,000 troops in Asia.

"I have no intection, no prospect, of backing off that Sentiment in Okinawa has oumber," Mr. Perry said. The

States has about 37,000 troops in Korea, 26,000 on Okinawa and about 20,000 elsewhere in Japan. On another topic, Mr.

Perry disclosed that a small NATO team had entered Bosnia in recent days to survey roads, bridges and other infrastructure. The purpose. he said, was to gain a better

knowledge of the conditions that would face a NATO-led military force if. as planned, it was called on to enforce a Bosnia peace

He said the NATO survey team included some Americans. He gave no other details.

Mr. Perry reiterated his view that the United States should set a specific time limit, preferably one year, for keeping its peacekeepers in Bosnia. Many io the U.S. Coogress have objected to this approach, which they say is politically driven President Clinton's desire to have the troops out

before the 1996 election. Some io Congress have asserted that setting a deadline for a U.S. pullout would encourage the Bosnian Serbs to wait before violating the peace accord, but Mr. Perry rejected that argument.

## De Klerk: Minority protection should continue

WORCESTER, Sonth Africa (AFP) - Power sharing which protects South Africa's different groups should continue as a permanent feature of the country's political system in the next century, the leader of the conservative National Party (NP) Frederik De Klerk

Mr. De Klerk, speaking to journalists during campaigning in this wine-producing town in the Western Cape province for South Africa's first democratic local government elections, said the prospect of full majority rule frightens domestic and international

Mr. De Klerk is currently the junior deputy president in the coaltion government led hy President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) which

in last year's historic allrace election. South Africa's interim constitution, which expires in 1999, entitles the former ruling NP to the deputy presidential position and six of the other 29 cahinet seats and other special provisions

won 61 per cent of the votes

known as "sunset clauses" in proportion to its support. Legislators are currently working on a new constitu-

tion which will come into force after the current one lapses.

Mr. De Klerk, whose support base consists largely of whites, Asians and people of mixed race known as coloureds, has often rejected what he calls "winner takes all" politics which would sec the instalment of a government exclusively representing the black majority.

"If by 1999 we can develop a system which gives protection to minorities ... then we can create a climate of stability", Mr. De Klerk

# Sri Lankan rebels said to resist army offensive

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas were fiercely resisting a major military thrust in their northern Jaffna stronghold despite pounding by the Sri Lankan army's hig guns and air strikes, residents and rebels said Friday.

"Troops on Operation Sunshine can't advance because of heavy resistance by the Tigers," said a Jaffna resident who arrived in Vavuniya, the northernmost town under government control.

"The army is shelling the area day and night," he said. Both the army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had suffered beavy losses but those on the army's side, especially in equipment, were higher,

be said. The army says more than 500 rebels had been killed and 1,500 wounded in the army's latest and biggest offensive in Jaffna, launched 10 days ago to recapture control of the

peninsula. Army Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said the rebels. unable to face the advancing army in the north, were withdrawing in disarray and making diversionary attacks on villagers in the east and on Colombo in a desperate hid to ward off the assault.

The rebels were summoning reinforcements from other theatres of the war while hospitals in the north were full of their wounded,

Survivors said the guerrillas massacred 24 Sinhalese villagers Thursday in a raid on remote hamlets in oortheastern Weli Oya, the fifth nf its kind since Saturday.

Weli Oya lies at the heart of the conflict, lodged between government and Tiger controlled areas, where Sinhalcse villages are under threat from the LTTE, fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the north and the east.

The government says more than 50,000 people have died in the 12-year

The rebels killed 90 mostly Sinhalese villagers, including babies, in raids in the east and northeast at the weekend. The rebels have not admitted responsibility for the attacks.

Rebel suicide squads blew up the island's two main oil depots in the capital Colombo in a daring raid

Army sources said the army had lost 126 soldiers and had more than 500 wounded in the hitter fighting which brought troops to within eight kilometres of Jaffna City.

The LTTE said in a statement Friday that the army rained thousands of mortars and artillery shells into the Neerveli area, but rebel fighters had held firm. The rebels earlier said

they had blown up three armoured vehicles. The army said only the vehicles were damaged. Brig. Munasinghe insisted

Neerveli the previous day. Jaffna residents said thousands of people displaced by the fighting were stream-

ing across the lagoon from Jaffna to Kilinochchi, on the mainland where the rebels have huilt an alternative command centre and hospital if Jaffna fell. They also said the 16 peo-

the troops had captured

ple were killed when air force jets bombed Jaffna City Thursday. Brig. Munasinghe said

maximum possible precautions were taken to avoid civilian casualties in the offensive and that the military regretted any accidental wounding of civilians.

Army infficers say the offensive was breaking the guerrillas' grip on the Jaffna peninsula, depriving them of a recruiting ground and access to hospital.

The rebels run a virtual mini-state in Jaffna, with their own courts, police and civil administration.

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga told Friday's New York Times that government troops were near a decisive battle with Tamil rebels.

This is the higgest offensive against the Tigers that any Sri Lankan government has ever undertaken," she said in the interview, referring to the military push in the northern Jaffna peninsu-

The next few days will be "very critical" to the country's 13-year civil war, she

"We still believe that the only possible final solution to the problem is a negotiated political settlement," Mrs. Kumaratunga said. "hut as the Tigers are not willing to accept that situation, and as they have compelled us into a war, we believe that we should wage the war efficiently."

She said she believed the guerrilla organisation had lost public support and was showing serious splits for the first time, with several hundred rebels having defected to the government side recently.

We believe that the hreak has begun to come," said the president, who was interviewed Wednesday in New York where she was attending the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Meanwhile the clandestine radio station of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas has been off the air for nearly six days and may have been hit during the military offensive, Tamil sources said Friday.

The LTTE have not transmitted their regular twice daily news bulletins since the start of the week when the army escalated their campaign against the rebels, the sources said.

The Voice of Tigers radio was believed to have operated from the small town of Neerveli in the northern peninsula of Jaffna where there had been intense artillery exchanges and air force attacks.

### Canada's future hangs in balance in Quebec vote

-MONTREAL (R) - The future of a united Canada hung in the balance Thursday as politicians campaigned furiously to sway undecided voters in the final days before Quebec votes on whether to

break away. Only weeks ago Quebec nationalists looked likely to suffer a crushing defeat in the Oct. 30 referendum, but the battle has been transfight that has bitterly divided the country.

Two new public opinion polls put the separatists slightly in the lead among decided voters. A Crop poll released late Wednesday pnt the gap at 44.5 to 42.2 per cent and an Angus Reid survey released Thursday afternoon put the gap wider, at 44 to 40 per cent for the separatists

Both polling agencies said the race was still too close to call. Crop said 13 per cent remained undecided and Angus Reid put the figure at 16 per cent.

"However, despite the tightness of the race, it is clear that the momentum of the campaign favours the yes (separatist) option," Angus Reid's senior vice president, John Wright, told a conference call organised by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The Canadian dollar suf-

fered through another volatile day on the market, initially strengthening as some investors bet that support for separation had peaked, but falling later on

the Angus Reid poll results. Investors are worried that separation would disrupt flows of money and trade throughout North America.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien repeated Thursday his warning that a vote for separation would plunge Canada into chaos. "Its a plunge in the dark,"

Mr. Chretieo said in an interview on the main private Freoch-language tele-"Nobody could predict what would happen.' On Wednesday evening he

had pleaded with Quebec's five million voters during a nationally televised address to think long and hard before casting their hallots. Leaning toward the camera, his voice cracking with emotion, Mr. Chretien asked Quebec voters: "Do you really think it is worth abandoning the country we have huilt and which our ancestors have left us? Do you really think it makes any sense — any sense at all

— to break up Canada?" Separatist leader Lucien Bouchard launched an angry attack on Mr. Chretien, accusing him of treachery against Quebec in helping patriate (transfer) the Canadian constitution from Britain in 1982 without Quebec's assent.

Mr. Bouchard held up a copy of the from page of a French-language newspaper from before the patriation showing Mr. Chretien, then the justice minister, laughing, under a banner headline which said that he and for-

mer Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau had "betrayed" Quebec.

The constitution as patriated failed to enshrine special protection for the French language and culture
— the so-called "distinct society" clause. Quebec is the only province not to have consented to the con-

Quebec voted 60-40 per cent agaiost separation io ago predicted the nationalists would suffer a similar defeat this time, perhaps ending for a generation any hope of an independent Quebec.

But over the Canadian Thanksgiving Holiday weekend in early October, charismatic separatist Bouchard effectively seized control of the nationalist campaign and galvanised supporters with speeches appealing to pride in the French language and cul-He and Quebec separatist

Premier Jacques Parizeau are asking supporters in gn out and find undecided voters and convince them to vote for a separate Quebec. Mr. Chrenen and thousands of Canadians, alarmed by the separatist wave, are desperately trying to turn the tide.

Tens of thousands of Canadians jammed airlines, trains, buses and roads to rush to Montreal for a massive unity rally Friday. which Mr. Chretien was expected to address. Meanwhile times have

changed radically since 1967 when General Charles De Gaulle shouted "vive le Quebec libre" (long live free Ouehec) in Montreal and France is now ultracautious in talking about possible independence for Canada's French-speaking province.

Although a disciple of the historic French leader, current President Jacques Chirac was quick to disfrom reports that he had endorsed the views of separatists seeking sovereignty in Quebec's referendum Monday.

Asked in a U.S. television interview if France was prepared to recognise a new Quebec government if Quebeckers voted to separate from the rest of Canada, Mr. Chirac said:

"If the referendum (is) positive — the government will recognise the facts".

Mr. Bouchard welcomed the remark and called it "a clear and firm position" in support of sovereignty for Quebec days ahead of Monday's referendum.

Recognising the potential for a diplomatic incident. Mr. Chirac's spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said the president only restated France's traditional position of "non-interference" in Canada's internal affairs.

"He did nm use the word "recognise" in reference to independence," Ms. Colonna said. "He said only that if the referendum were positive, he would recognise the facts."

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### **Duty towards globalism**

IN HIS MESSAGE to the Jordan Times on the occasion of the newspaper's 20th anniversary, the Crown Prince quoted the 17th century French "homme de lettres," Duc de la Rochefoucauld: "Celui qui croit pouvoir se passer de tout le monde se trompe, mais celui qui croit qu'on ne peut se passer de lui se trompe d'avantage," which if roughly translated means: "Those who believe they can do without the world deceive themselves, hut those who believe the world cannot do without them, deceive themselves even more."

The message, properly understood, signifies the mutual need of the individual towards society and towards the rest of the world. The emphasis of the mutual, however, siants in favour of the world.

The timely message advocates the philosophy of global awareness, the pursuit of sharing across continents, an interdependency of nations. Individuals cannot do without interaction with the rest of the world. The world nevertheless will continue to revolve, even without the aid of that elusive individual member of the society, the message says; hut will that individual hop on the speeding train

The nation-states, the 183 members of the U.N., among them the powerful and the meek, need to realise that their survival individually and collectively depends so much on their common endeavour to make life more endurable for everyone.

Globalism is an ultimate goal. As the world, in effect, grows smaller through communication technology, we find ourselves increasingly bound to the task of better harvesting our needs and spreading them worldwide. The task is also a reciprocal one. The rest of the world has to speak to us. And for that purpose, we increasingly feel we have a duty to work towards bringing integration at the regional level in closer contact. We are reminded of where we stand at present at our socio-political stations and we are aware of how much in need we are of this comprehensive integration, the need for cross-boundary dialogue. We are indeed part of this global village. Our presence may never be felt in it, or may be felt only fleetingly, but nevertheless, the need is there to strive for the uppermost ideals and to voice the common thought.

La Rochefoucauld's penetrating cynicism in many of his epigrams is an apt quality that even today reflects on human nature's frustrated attempt to make our world a better place to live in.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily bitterly criticised the U.S. Congress for voting to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, saying that this move was a major offence dealt to the Arab and Muslim Nation. Munes Razzaz said that the decision should remind the Arab states that Washington can in no way abandon its Zionist ally in the region, however, hard the Arabs tried to be friendly to America and protect its interests. Indeed, he said, had the U.S. Congress thought that the American interests in the Middle East would be jeopardised by this decision, it would not have taken the vote but it knows for sure that the Arabs would not show any hostile reaction to Washington's decision and the writer. He is need, however, that decrease many time Archive from being lead to violence like the case in France, which is now victim

10 desperate forces coming from Algeria. The writer said that despair among the Arabs and Muslims cold drive the descerate and frustrated people to move their violent acts to the United States, where they can take revenge on that nation that has shown and practiced hostility towards them.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour proposed that the government order schools and public institutions closed during the Middle East and North Africa summit (MENA), which will be held in Amman Sunday, to avoid many headaches and traffic jams. However hard the traffic department tries to avoid the congestion due to the diversions on the roads, it would not succeed in preventing serious jams not due to any fault on the part of the traffic department but because of the nature of the streets and the situation which will arise due to the presence of a large number of security men with their vehicles to ensure security during the conference, said Mohammao Subeihi. The writer said that any breakdown of any car on the side roads during the conference would no doubt cause a major traffic jam and a disturbing confusion for the students, the public and private sector employees going into or coming out from the seclusion zone. He said that the new arrangements on the roads will no doubt cause delays in the arrival of employees and the school students to and from home.

# Getting in gear for a stronger regional role

JORDAN THIS week hosts one of the most important events that the Middle East ever saw: a three-day conference that brings together senior officials and business leaders representing 63 countries from all over the globe who will explore possibilities of husiness created in the wake of peace agreements signed by Israel and the Palestinians and Israel and Jordan.

In any event, we hope to witness during the three days of meetings of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference bere the birth of regional cooperation and all that it entails against the backdrop of peace between Arabs and Israel. Some aspects of such cooperation may bave to wait, given the absence of Syria and Lebanon, but that should not be a dissuading factor for anyone to seek means to exploit the full potential of the region while leaving room open for the absentees to turn up somewhere down the road.

It is premature to assess what lies in store for Jordan at the summit in terms of concrete moves that would help Jordanians realise the dividends of peace. Hopefully, there will be a minimum level of materialising projects at the

summit, and then it is largely up to our private sector and its counterparts from the 63 countries represented here to negotiate and reach agreements.

Beyond the economic aspect of the conference, the fact that it is bosting the summit is politically very symbolic for Jordan. Could anyone have imagined three years ago that Jordan would host such a gathering, given the isolation that we faced in the wake of the Gulf crisis? We owe it to our leadership to have charted the right course and guided us through some of the most troubled waters that a nation could ever find itself in. Not only Jordan steered itself through the troubled waters but has also managed to raise itself to the level of a key regional player whose advice, opinion and influence would continue to be sought by the international community.

As to the sceptics, whether in Jordan and elsewhere, who have been predicting all along that nothing good is coming out of the peace process, the MENA conference should be a resounding message that the region and the international community are serious about doing something good indeed for the people of the region.

On an inter-Arab level, the most significant aspect of the summit is the participation of all the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as a clear indication of not only of their interest in regional economic cooperation hut also a message of improved relations with lordan per

In this context, there are strong signs that the role of the Saudi-led GCC in the summit will be quite impressive. The project presentations by at least two GCC countries, Oman and Qatar, reflect the strength of the GCC role.

The recent meeting the King held with Saudi Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sultan Ben Sultan and the impending visit to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saudi Al Faisal are two other events that should reaffirm the returning warmth of Saudi-Jordanian relations.

All told, Jordan and Jordanians have every reason to be proud of playing bost to the MENA summit and seeking to assume a stronger regional role in socio-political-economic development of the region.

# Jordanian writers celebrate the Jordan Times on its 20th anniversary

## How a good paper wins its own freedom

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek Al Ra'i

Al Ra'i sister daily, the Jordan Times, the only English language daily, in Jordan. today celebrates its 20th anniversary, concluding 20 years in the service of Jordan and in the pursuit of the

tinguished itself from the served as editor in the early other local Arabic dailies in the country because it has consistently striven to raise editor of the daily. Both men the ceiling of freedom of the can be described as profespress even during the martial law years when the press tributions and dedicated was subjected to arbitrary efforts made and continue to

proved throughout the past men and women journalists two decades that freedom of currently serving as Amman the press is a daily practice correspondents for reputed that is not granted but rather world media organisations. is won by one's own initiative and that true journalists can determine their own ceil-

tion for the international top of the list of those peop Jordanians who find in it articles and reports. ian dailies.

a living evidence that a versa. newspaper's influence, sta-

Al Mashreq weekly

We celebrate with our col-

leagues in the Jordan Times

the 20th anniversary of an English language daily that

for two decades bas been

Jordan's window on the

For non-Arabic speakers

the Times has been their

only means to read about

what goes on in this coun-

try. As for us, Arahic-lan-

guage speakers, we always

enjoy reading a newspaper

that has carved for itself a

We congratulate our col-

leagues in the Jordan Times

Al Aswaq Newspaper

The Jordan Times, which

celebrates its 20th anniver-

sary, has retained its unique

performance as the only

English language daily

over the past years. The paper has truly reflected the

country's national message

to the world in various

areas and at the same time

turned out many journalists

outside world.

glean through any foreign language publication on Jordan to find that the Jordan Times had served as a major source of reference for its materials. Indeed, it can be described as oational book of

records.

In reflecting on such achievements by the Jordan Times one can only attribute its success over the years to The Jordan Times has dis- two men; Rami Khouri who years and George Hawatmeh who took over and still in sional journalists whose conmeasures by some govern- make the daily a model of ments. make the daily a model of highly refined journalism The Jordan Times has and a school that turned out

I have had the honour of contributing to the Jordan Times a weekly column far the past 12 years. That col-Not only has the Jordan umn, which never fails to Times proved itself to be a draw reactions and feedback credible source of informa- from readers, has also put on community in Jordan — the whom foreign journalists businessmen aod tourists - seek to meet and interview but it has also proved to be a when visiting the country reliable resource to many and gathering facts for their

news and views that are This is a testimony to the lacking in the other Jordan- fact that a good newspaper is what makes and comes a The Jordan Times serves as good writer and not vice

The Jordan Times has not tus and respect do not only only served Jordan but also depend on its circulation. It contributed to the profession is true that the circulation of journalism in Jordan and figures of the Jordan Times imbued it with credibility. are not massive yet its influ- On its anniversary, its staff ence far exceeds its sales. truly deserve the warmest of It is enough for one to congratulations.

wider margin of freedom

that distinguishes it from

the other three Arabic

We are impressed by the Jordan Times' democratic

and liberal approach in selecting and processing news and views. We are

also grateful for the news-

paper for its contribution to

recruiting and preparing a

generation of professional

journalists whose work

now is symbolic of the

great potential in the conn-

anniversary. We wish the Jordan Times and its staff

currently serving in promi-nent positions in the public

and private sector and the

media. Indeed, the Jordan

Times has become through

its dedication, daring cov-

erage of events and relent-

less efforts a pioneer

among the Arab media and

a school training and then

turning out efficient jour-

nalists to serve in many

other areas of the world of

Impressive approach

Best wishes from Al Dustour

on the paper's 20th progress and prosperity.

Unique performance

### 20th Anniversary A step ahead

By Abdullah Hjazi

Al Ra'i The Jordan Times has exerted serious and continuous efforts over the past 20 years, serving the oation and the readers and developing aloogside with the Kingdom in many different ways. The topics covered by the daily continue to be of real interest to the readers, presented in an objective and daring manner. We in Al Ra'i daily lived with the Jordan Times since its birth, greatly admiring the efforts of its staff, who have succeeded in transforming the four-page daily into a 12-page newspaper of a very high standard. Indeed the staff of the English language daily exert much more efforts in producing this relatively small size daily than the whole of the Al Ra'i staff producing many times more pages. This fact increases our admiration for the Jordan Times team

who work in a unique unison and skill and are envied by the staff of the other dailies in town. It is true that Al Ra'i daily bas made major strides rising to levels on equal footing with other world daily papers, but we have felt that the Jordan Times was always a step ahead of us in terms of journalistic performance and excellence. We have always looked with admiration and respect at the staff of the Jordan Times, not because they have an edge over us in view of their fluency in English but because they were really unique in their work and enjoy qualifications seldom found in other newspapers. By celebrating the anniversary, we feel that the Jordan Times has become a basic element of the daily life of a large sector of the population and we wish its staff continued success.

## Newspaper that can go regional

By Tareq Masarweh

Al Ra'i

The Jordan Times, which celebrates its 20th anniversary, can be rightly described as the best among the English language dailies published in the Arab World, serving not only the local public but foreign companies, diplomatic missions and foreign media. Had it been given more freedom in dealing with pan-Arab affairs, the Jordan Times would have risen to the level of the rep-American and British press long time ago. The Jordan Times had turned out highly qualified journalists who now fill important positions in the foreign media. Being colleagues to the journalists of the Jordan Times working

to Al Ra't daily we highly appreciate the journalistic efforts of the paper's Editor George Hawatnieh and his team. The management of the Jordan Press Foundation, publishers of the Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times. need to allocate more funds for the English language daily and boost the efforts of its staff, and so help the newspaper retain its highly qualified staff, many of whom have over the years sought work elsewhere. Having had training at the Jordan Times they, those journalists naturally excelled in other areas too. earning for themselves better income. The Jordan Times, which had proved its excellence in the past 20 years is quite capable of faring better in the media world in the years to come.

## A credible newspaper

By Sultan Al Hattab

From the very start, the Jordan Times has succeeded in speaking the language of the foreign nationals and presenting its objective and local

aiways avoided rhetoric and many of the nonsense that is often found in the Arab dailies. Acting with a greater measure of freedom, the Jordan Times insisted not to be a carbon copy of the local Arabic

international news. The dailies and has succeeded footsteps at a later stage. staff of the Jordan Times in rising to the standard The Jordan Times has won table by the foreign media and the foreign nationals who read it. Indeed the Jordan Times took the lead in tackling topics which were taboo in the Arabic press, which simidly followed in its

friends and a large readership to the extent that many Jordanians now consider it as their main newspaper, because its service to the country has been invaluable and immeasurable indeed.

# A story of growth and success

By Ahmad Al Misleh

Al Ra'i

THE 20TH anniversary of the Jordan Times coincides with the silver jubilee of its sister publi-cation Al Ra'i daily. The Jordan Times has matured after overcoming numerous obstacles and hardships and after growing from four to six to eight and later to 12 pages. What characterises this pretty young and vigorous newspaper are its daring articles and analysis which won it the admiration of readers in Jordan and many parts of the world. The Jordan Times has developed over the years, charming its readers with its performance and deserving 20 beautiful roses for its 20 beautiful

### A pioneer in the Arab media

By Sameer Hiari

Al Raʻi

THE STAFF of Al Ra'i daily envy their colleagues in the Jordan Times because of the higher ceiling of freedom they enjoy and practice. It is true that our chief, Abu Azmi, gives us some freedom in choosing the stories that we write and publish but many times he censors our articles which could easily find their way into the Jordan

Times. In word and deed, the Jordan Times has become the first newspaper in Jordan with its performance. unique which truly serves the country and its people and reflects n good image to the outside world. The Jordan Times has won for itself numerous friends, especially among the paper's colleagues in Al Ra'i daily. We congratulate each and every one of them on their achievements.

# Twenty years of achievement

By Dr. Majdi Sabri

THE JORDAN Times has always been special to me because of an early personal experience which I immensely enjoyed.

My association with Jordan Times dates back to 1980, when I used to write a weekly column primarily on economic issues. For more than a year, I also edited the Economy page, which gave me a memorable experience and an invaluable insight into the world of journalism. The few hours that I used to spend at the Jordan Times every week were very enjoyable as I was introduced to an overwhelmingly friendly atmosphere of professional journalism

and efficient teamwork. The Jordan Times today stands out among the rest as probably the best Eng-

lish language newspaper in the Arab World. It also competes successfully with Jordanian daily newspapers and most of the time is ahead some of them in covering local stories. It became a major source of information to

the outside world and its well-read editorial usually reflects the general mode of the country. It provided Jordanians and others with an open forum to discuss various issues freely and responsibly, and gained a lot of respect in various quarters because of its credibility and responsible attitude.

During the past two decades, the newspaper developed itself fairly steadily. It is now covering a wider spectrum of activities and areas of interest. However, as an

see a more comprehensive coverage of Jordan's economic and financial issues.

Jordan Times editors. correspondents and writers are now more experienced and they continue to hold the same pioneering spirit which was initiated by Rami Khouri and later carried forward by George Hawatmeh.

The Jordan Times family should look back with pride at their 20 years of achievements. I congratulate every one of them on this happy occasion and wish them further success for many years to come.

The writer is RJ executive vice president for economist, I would like to marketing and sales.

#### Khasawneh denies 'Izvestia' account

AMMAN (J.T.) - Dr. Hani Khasawneh, a former minister of information, has denied that he ever told the Jordan Times' editors that they had to view their newspaper as another tzvestia (a Soviet newspaper that served as the government mouthpiece during the communist

"I visited the Jordan Times' offices in 1988 and met with the editors for an informal conversation," he said in a telephone statement in response to an article that appeared in the 20th anniversary issue of Thursday, "Nowhere during that conversation did I mention the wnrd Izvesua," he said, without elaborating on the substance of the "conversation" with the editors, who have their Own account of the





# News

esignificant aspect of the the six members of the ) as a clear indication of ad economic cooperation elations with Jordan per

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have every reason to be NA summer and seeking de in socio political-eco-

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formations of a later stage The Latter Lines has ween conductors מתברת לבונו. inemis and a large redeshop to the extent that may Jordanian i new considera а с Ители правит пемерары. became the service to be connity has been invaluable and consequentable indeed.

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### MENA seeks partnership

(Continued from page 1)

varied cultures of the operate freely. So that Mediterranean region. We domestic and foreign investseek to release the great energies and potential of our peoples.

The King also paid tribute to the historical role played by Spain "as a place of convergence and fusion of the great heritage of the three Abrahamic faiths... Judaism, Cbristianity and Islam... produced an unprecedented cultural revival."

The King also paid tribute for Spain's hosting of the 1991 Middle East peace conference in Madrid and expressed hope that "for our cbildren and grandchildren, the name of Madrid will be synonymous with that of peace.

Following are major excerpts from the speech:
"Together, the Muslims,
Christians and Jews of Spain

produced a dynamic multicultural society. But all of this cannot adequately ex-plain the bigh regard and deep affection that we have for Spain. It is the Spain of today that earns its special place in our hearts. "For nearly 50 years our

people have struggled and sacrificed, but now is the time to build anew, a world where all peoples bave the chance to live a life of dignity and security.

"Their voices must be heard, their opinions must count and they must live in a just society.

"Indeed, for us in Jordan. our unshakeable commitment to peace is but a complement to our equally unsbakeable commitment to democracy, political pluralism and respect for human

"Yet there remains much work to be done. The peace that we have forged must be nurtured, sustained and defended. This defence requires not so much guns, tanks and aircraft, but schools jobs, and

We are aware that in order to achieve sustainable economic growth, the private sector must be allowed to

appreciation and that of my

colleagues for the important

media role played by the

Jordan Press Foundation.

represented by its sister pub-

lications Al Ra'i and the Jor-

dan Times," Dr. Karaki said in his cable Thursday. "I

hope that you will press

ahead with your disting-

nished contribution, through

reflecting Jordan's issues and

achievements, towards prog-

ress of Arab journalism in

which the Jordanian press

ments may generate the spark that will drive the war weary economies of the Middle East.

"To this end, we will be hosting, two days from now in Amman, the Middle East and North Africa economic summit. The private and publie sectors of sixty countries, as well as numerous organisationa, will come together to review and adopt development projects that will benefit all the peoples of our

region and beyond.
"Building on this, the Amman summit will shortly be followed by the Barceloua conference, which will bring together businesses from both sides of the Mediterranean in order to fulfil and explore joint projects in trade and industry.

King Hussein on Friday received a message from Israeli Prime Minister Yītzhak Rabin congratulating bim on receiving the Prince of Asturias award.

Mr. Rabin said the award presentation ceremony was a continuation of last year's celebrations, "when I had the honour of receiving the award for achieving peace with Jordan and for our readiness to reach an accord with the Palestinians."

Mr. Rabin said the Israelis acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation the contribution of King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and others who pushed the peace process between Jordan and Israel.

"Our children and ancestors on both sides of the River Jordan are indebted for King Hussein for bis untiring and sincere efforts to make peace happen, and I do tbank him on behalf of the State of Israel," he said.

Io New York meanwhile, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said King Hussein and Saudi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defeoce Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz emphasised at

# Window on 'globalism'

(Continued from page 1)

Mioister of Information Khaled Karaki also sent a message of coogratulations to the Jordan Times on the occasion... ... .. ... ... anniversary." "I want to record my own

On the occasion, the Jordan Times bas also received

oceupies an important place," he added. "On behalf of the staff in all information. departments, f wish to congratulate\_you\_on\_your\_20th.

calls, letters, cables and flowers from many of our readers - among them officials, parliamentarians and members of the diplomatic corps and the business community in the Kingdom. The newspaper will publish over the next few days as many as possible of the letters, with due appreciation to all those who took the time to send in congratulations and those who celebrated with us in silence.

#### 11th hour contacts on bank (Continued from page 1)

He said that consultations the bank's structure, manbetween the King and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will date, capital, base and membership of the regional bank. continue aimed at bolstering

their meeting last week the

need for joint action and for

achieving a unified Arab

Saudi-Jordanian ties and

call made by United Arab Emirates (UAE) President

Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al

Nahayan to an end to inter-

Arab difference and restoring

in reply to a question over

the U.S. Congress' voting to

move the American Embassy

from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem

by 1999, Mr. Kabariti said

that Jordan's position re-

mains firm with regard to the

Holy City.
"Jordan has its own re-

servations with regard to the

Coogress vote and any other

decision by any party that infringes on the status of

Jerusalem and affects in adv-

ance any final solution on the

status of Jerusalem, said the

minister, who stressed that

any solution should be based

on U.N. Security Council Re-

solution 242 and the other

U.N. resolutions over Jeru-

salem and the outcome of the

final stage of negotiations

over the future of the city.

minister said, does not serve

the peace process which

should enjoy a convenient and favourable atmosphere

in order to reach a just and

Mr. Kabariti said Jordan

expects from the U.S. admi-

nistration, which is sponsor-

ing the peace process to re-

frain from taking any action

or measures that could affect

the final solotion. He said

that Jordan had found in the

White House statement over

the U.S. Congress' vote a

reaffirmation of the U.S.

administration's realisation

of the dangers inhereot in the

vote and a determination to

overcome its negative results.

comprehensive settlement.

U.S. Congress' vote, the

Arab solidarity.

Mr. Kabariti welcomed the

serving common interests.

stand.

The U.S. administration proposed the bank, with a capital of \$5 billion - one quarter paid in - to cofinance projects for the private sector on commercial

The proposed Ammanbased institution, initially proposed by the Europeans

and backed by Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians, would not finance any projects but financing from the bank.

### Israel studying PLO demand

New (Palestinian) troops are for a Jewish settlement, setsupposed to mave to Jenin

troops out of Jenin on Oct. 25. The Israeli withdrawal is to be completed by Nov. 13. Palestinian self-rule elections will go ahead as scheduled on Jan. 20. Mr. Peres spoke after talks with the European Union (EU), which will super-

nical reasons."

"We must respect commitments and dates, the elections will take place on the scheduled date," Mr. Peres said after talks with an EU delegation headed by Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Sola-The EU had confirmed

that the Palestinians would be ready to stage the poll on January 20, just before the Holy Month of Ramadan, Mr. Peres said.

The Israeli government meanwhile confiscated West Bank land to build a reservoir would define regional projects of a political significance as well as infrastructure projects that would not receive

The institution, which has no capital to finance projects. will also "look for financing" from regional as well as international financers.

(Continued from page 1)

according to the agreement."

Under the deal signed in Washington extending Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, it was agreed Israel would begin pulling Mr. Peres also said Friday

vise the poll. His comments contradicted an assertion by Oren Shahor, Israeli coordinator for the territories, that the elections would be delayed for "tech-

tlers said Friday. The plot seized is known as Artis Hill, a site near the settlement of Beit El where a Palestinian was shot dead this summer in a violent clash with settlers over the land.

The housing and defence ministries declined comment Friday. The Israeli military government in the West Bank said it would check into the reported confiscation. Yoav Barak, administrative director of Beit El, said the government confiscated a

portion of Artis Hill to build a reservoir. He did not know how many acres were taken. Mr. Barak said the approval was given after several years of consideration. Mr. Barak said maintain-

ing Israeli control over the bilitop would ensure "better security" for Beit El.

Also Friday, several hundred Palestinians rallied in the West Bank town of Halhoul to protest Israel's confiscation of land for the construction of bypass roads for settlers. "No peace with bypass

roads," and "bypass roads equals occupation." read banners and signs held by

### | Most Palestinians want some form of relationship

(Continued from page 1)

While Jordanians were lity of West Bankers and mixed on the final shape of Gazans believed that the peace process will produce an the Palestinian entity, rangindependent Palestinian ing from a self-rule under state. Israeli domination to an inde-

The results of the study were described by one analyst who preferred not to

be named as highly surpris-

Lebanon and Syria will.

however, attend a Euro-

Mediterranean conference in

Barcelona in November

Mr. Bouez argued that the

Barcelona forum "serves the

interests of all concerned

countries and allows them to

participate on an equal foot-

ing."
Mr. Sharaa stressed it was

a "purely European initia-

tive" which, unlike the Am-

man summit, is not linked to

Damascus said Syria was

afraid of losing control of the

post-peace era. "Syria be-

lieves that the summit is an

attempt to isolate it and in-

crease pressure on Damascus

to make concessions to Israel

in the peace process," he

Yet both Lebanon and

Sytia need assurances that

peace with Israel will bring

big dividends to boost their

said.

economies.

A Western diplomat in

the Arab-Israeli talks.

alongside Israel.

and aspirations towards the

Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

"There is closeness between the two peoples much more than we and they think," the analyst said.

ing, especially in terms of the

Palestinians' approach, view

### Syria, Lebanon stay home

(Continued from page 12)

not attend any multilateral ited States, Japan and talks involving Israel."

Europe. Syria, which maintains 35,000 troops in Lebanon and bas a large amount of influence, bas failed to make any progress in peace negotia-

pendent Palestinian state pas-

sing through some kind of a

Palestinian entity, the major-

The peace talks have foundered over security arrangements to accompany any Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

tions with the Jewish state.

Officials in Damascus and Beirut, linked by a 1991 "brotherhood, cooperation and coordination" agree-ment, are adamant: they will not take part in multilateral talks with Israel until they have made progress towards peace.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has charged that the main goal of the Amman summit, which opens on Sunday, is "to do away with Arab national identity and Arabism." He said it would binder "the Arab Nation's long-term

Syrian Foreign Minsiter Farouk Al Sharaa was equally hostile, saying the summit would "weaken" his country's posture in negotiations with Israel and consecrate the Jewish state's occupation of Arab land. His Lebanese counterpart,

Fares Bouez, told AFP: "As long as bilateral peace talks with Israel fail to make any real progress, Lebanon will

Beirut is gripped by a frenzy of post-war reconstruction projects worth \$14 billion that depend largely on foreign grants and loans.

"Foreign investors will refuse to have anything to do with us if Lebanon and Syria are late in signing peace with Israel," a Lebanese businessman who declined to be named said.

"We will suffocate economically and this will reflect negatively on Syria, which looks to us as a window of opportunity." he added.

Around one million Syrian workers have jobs in Lebanon, many of them in the construction and agriculture sectors, and they took some \$3.8 billion home in 1994. experts in Beirut said.

Other experts here argue, however, that Syria and Lebanon's absence in Amman will not damage their potential to attract investment in the future. They cite privatisation programmes in Syria and Beirut's traditional acumen for business.

#### Tent hospital in Palestinian camp

LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN BORDER (AFP) - A Beglian aid organisation on Friday set up a tent hospital here and delivered badly-needed medical supplies to 1,000 Palestinians trapped in no-man's land. Two doctors from Medecins Sans Frontieres set up the hospital and a pharmacy, as well as providing a water punification system. The U.N. has reported cases of diarrhoea and sickness among children in the camp. Torrential rains over the past few days have uncovered several mines planted on the border on the side of the international highway linking Cairo to Tripoli,

## Gargour & Fils appointed line's agents

T. GARGOUR & Fils has been appointed ing that period. as general agents in Jordan for Wallenius Lines, Stockholm - Sweden since Sept. 19**g**9.

Wallenius Lines is Europe's largest car carrier and the fourth largest in the world. Wallenius Lines vessels have started to call at Agaba since November 1989. The service was suspended as from August 1990 until the end of October 1993 as a result of the Gulf crisis and U.N. interception at Tiran Straits. In October 1993, Wallenius Lines operated indirect services

from Jeddah to Aqaba by using feedering vessels. During 1994, Wallenius Lines resumed its direct services and came on top of all other RO-RO Liners serving Agaba Port. Wallenius Lines' total number of discharged units during 1994 was 2,123, thus constituting around 63.47 per cent of the total number of discharged units at Aqaba and cargo handling methods, the new ships from north continent in that year. Also, during January-October 1995, Wallenius Lines' total number of discharged units was 1,612, constituting around 35 per cent

Ports of

Hanko

Wallenius Lines is operating a bi-monthly regular service to Aqaba from the north cootinent and the Mediterranean.

The following is a press release on "Wallenius Lines Ordering Two New Car

#### WALLENIUS LINES ORDERS TWO NEW CAR CARRIERS

Wallenius Lines has confirmed that it has ordered two new super car carriers from the Daewoo Okpo Shipyard in Korea for delivery in 1998.

The 20 knot vessels will be sister ships to MS 'TITUS' and MS 'TURANDOT' which entered service with Wallenius Lines in November 1994 and January 1995 respectively.

Represeoting state-of-the-art oautical will be able to carry up to 5,850 cars. They will replace alder tonnage which will be scrapped in 1998.

Two similar vessels being constructed at of the total units discharged at Aqaba dur- the same yard are due for delivery in

November 1995 and the second half of 1997. This will bring the number of new ships ordered from the Daewoo yard to six in the past four years.

Christer Olsson, chief executive, Wallenius Lines said: "These new buildings underpin Wallenius Lioes policy of iovesting in new tonnage for our quality driven customers and reflects our continuing strive for excellence as exemplified by our Lloyd's Register of Quality Assurance."

These new ships are well equipped for the best possible handling of cargo and consideration for the environment and the people working on and around the ships,"

Wallenius Lines is Europe's largest car carrier and the fourth largest in the world. The line operates a fleet of 30 vessels and carries close to one millioo cars annually. In 1994, Wallenius Lines became the world's first shipping company to be awarded the Lloyd's Register of Quality Assurance combined quality certification with ISO 9002 and the ISM Code.

TBN

TBN



John T. Gargour / Chairman Nadim T. Gargour / Managing Director

## Sailing Schedule

Date .....26/10/95

Medea

Hojin

Turandot

21/12/95

AA SHILISHIII	-	-	-	-	•	21/12/95	-	-
Drammen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gothenburg	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Bremerhaven	12/10/95	26/10/95	08/11/95	24/11/95	08/12/95	23/12/95	10/01/96	25/01/96
Hamburg	-		9/11/95*	25/11/95*	9/12/95*	24/12/95*	11/1/96*	26/1/96*
Amsterdam	13/10/95	27/10/95	11/11/95	27/11/95	11/12/95	27/12/95	13/01/96	28/01/96
Antwerp	14/10/95	28/10/95	12/11/95	28/11/95	12/12/95	28/12/95	14/01/96	29/01/96
Southampton	17/10/95	29/10/95	13/11/95	29/11/95	13/12/95	29/12/95*	15/01/96	30/01/96
Le Havre	_	<b>-</b>	14/11/95*		14/12/95*	-	16/1/96*	
Barcelona	2t/t0/95	03/11/95	18/11/95	03/12/95	19/t 2/95	02/01/96	20/01/96	04/02/96
Geneva	23/10/95	04/11/95	20/11/95	05/12/95	21/12/95	04/01/96	22/01/96	06/02/96
Ports of Discharge								
Aqaba	29/10/95	10/11/95	25/11/95	11/12/95	27/12/95	09/01/96	28/01/96	12/02/96
Jeddah	31/10/95	12/11/95	27/11/95	13/12/95	29/12/95	11/01/96	30/01/96	14/02/95
Mina Qaboos	05/1 t/95	t6/1t/95	02/12/95	t8/t2/95	03/01/96	16/01/96	05/02/96	19/02/96
Dubai	06/11/95	17/11/95	03/12/95	19/12/95	04/01/96	17/01/96	06/02/96	20/02/96
Abu Dhabi	07/11/95	18/11/95	04/12/95	20/12/95	05/01/96	18/01/96	07/02/96	21/02/96
Mesajecd		19/11/95	05/12/95	21/12/95	06/01/96	19/01/96	08/02/96	22/02/95
Bahrain		20/11/95	06/12/95	22/12/95	07/01/96	20/01/96	09/02/96	23/02/96
Dammam	08/11/95	21/11/95	07/12/95	23/12/95	08/01/96	21/01/96	10/02/96	24/02/96
Kuwait		22/11/95	08/12/95	24/12/95	09/01/96	22/01/96	11/02/96	25/02/96
Port Kelang	-			_	-	-	-	-
Singapore	17/11/95	01/12/95	t7/12/95	02/01/96	18/01/96	31/01/96	19/02/96	05/03/96
Laem Chabang	20/11/95	03/12/95	20/12/95	5/1/1996*	21/01/96*	3/2/1996*	22/2/96*	8/3/96*
Hong Kong	24/11/95	07/12/95	24/12/95	09/01/96	25/01/96	07/02/96	26/02/96	12/03/96
Keelung	26/11/95	03/12/95	26/12/95	11/01/96	21/01/96	09/02/96	28/02/96	14/03/96
Theatering								

TO BE CONFIRMED

### rororororororo/ rororo JOINT SERVICE, EUROPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST لحجوزاتكم يرجى الاتصبال من مواني البحر الابيض المتوس ن مواني شمال وغرب اوروبيا تركة تلمشار للوكالات البحرب شركة تونيج فرفور واولادء وكلاء خطوط WALLENTUS LINES TITE - AND AND AND تنارع وصنفي التل إ الجارينيز ) حسل عمان – البوار الثالث معمع الرياش - الطابق الرابع مع الدمسيان - الطابق الراسع - عصان من آب (۱۹) يميان ۱۹۱۸ الاردن ص ب ۱۹۹۹ عضان ۱۹۹۸ الاردن تلکی ۲۱۹۰۱ تاستار جو ٹلگس ۲۲۰۱۲ / ۲۲۰۱۲ ٹرسٹ جو 19.757 -مانف ۱۰۱۱-۲

### EU defies Israeli demand

(Continued from page 1)

Congress overwhelming approval this week of a bill to move the embassy by 1999. The vote was seen as a recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's

However, Mr. Solana did not yield, according to the ministry statement. "The European position on the matter of Jerusalem is known and will not change," he told Mr. Peres.

Sodan meanwhile called on Arab and Muslim countries o close down U.S. embassies to protect the U.S. Congress decision, the Al Engaz Al Watani daily of Khartom reported Friday. It cited a communique

from the Sudanese parlia-meot's external relations committee late Thursday calling the move "a provocation to Arab and Islamic nations and an appeasement of the international Zionist desire for making Jerusalem a com-

Pletely Jewish city."
The committee said the decision was made "in response to dictates by the Zionist

lobby which manipulates

American decisions and ex-

ploits them for the interests

of aggressive Israel." Iraq denounced the U.S. congress' decision, saving it showed disregard of international law. Al Thawra newspaper.

mounthpiece of the ruling Baath Party, said: "The New American decision represents a good example of political impudence, arrogance and aggressiveness." It confirms the U.S. total

disregard of international law and U.N. and Security Council resolutions stating that Jerusalem is an occupied Arab city." "Syria said the U.S. congress' decision would adversely affect the Middle

East peace process and that it dealt a blow to Washington's credibility in the region. Al Baath daily newspaper, organ of the ruling Baath Party, said: "The U.S. decision is a direct act of aggression on the Arabs and Muslims and on their values and

heritage. In a front-page editorial, Al Baath called on fellow Arabs to take a unified stand in the face of the Congress'

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# **Economy**

## Summit loaded with discussions, presentation of projects and business opportunities

By Francesca Ciriaci Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty king Hussein will inaugurate the Middle East and North
ifrica (MENA) economic summit tomorrow with the participation of world leaders and high-ranking officials, di-plomats and businessmen. 'The international inauguraion will take place at the Palace of Culture at the Sports City at 11:00 a.m.

The opening plenary session, introduced and moderated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will start at 11:15 and will be marked by the speeches from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mobammed of Morocco, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Also Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestine National Authority (PNA); Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of israel; Javier Solana, presideot of the Council of Ministers of the European Union; Amr Musa, minister of foreign affairs of Egypt; Andre' Oullet, minister of foreign affairs of Canada; and Yasuo Fukuda, vice minister of foreign affairs of Japan will deliv-

A speech by Klaus Schwab, founder and president of the World Economic Forum (WEF), which has organised the conference. will conclude the opening

Later Sunday, at 5:30 p.m., a second plenary session about "the role of the international community in supporting the economic underpinnings of peace-building" will be held at the Palace of Culture, io the Sports City, moderated by Crown Prince Hassan. Ministers of foreign affairs from the UAE, Sweden, India, China and Tunisia and state ministers from Australia, Poland, Brazil, Finland and Bulgaria are also registered as speakers in this session.

At the same time, thematic discussions in parallel will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) and Regency Palace Hotel.

The schedule for Monday, the second day of the conference. is particularly busy. In the early morning Oct. 30, a networking breakfast with experts and media leaders is scheduled at the Inter.Continental Hotel: A precious occasion for businessmen to meet their counterparts from all over the world, exchange views and business cards.

The morning will continue with a plenary session moderated by Basel Jardaneh. minister of finance of Jordan. about "the economic climate," at the Palace of Culture. Stanley Fischer, first managing director of the In-ternational Monetary Fund (IMF) and Jassim Al Mannai. director-general of the Arab Monetary Fund, will deliver

After the plenary session, there will be project presentations in parallel: The Jordan Rift Valley development plan and "the multilateral peace process: Forging a partnership for business." The busy schedule of Monday morning will also include thematic discussions in parallel and will end up with a choice of nine different

Country lunches.

Bahrain, Egypt, Israel,
Morocco, PNA, Oatar, and
Jordan will submit their list of projects in the evening ses-

sion that starts at 3:30 p.m. A plenary session about "trade and industry" at the ministerial level will be held for the day continues at 3:00 from 17:30 to 19:30 at the p.m. with project presenta-Palace of Culture.

The next day, Tuesday, projects will be exchanged over breakfast at the Inter-.Continental Hotel, to give businessmen a further opportunity to discuss possibilities for joint ventures, partnerships and cooperation. Another plenary session. opening at 9:00 a.m. at the Palace of Culture, will be dedicated to "infrastruc-

The Tuesday's project presentations, which will start at 11:00 a.m., will deal with business and regional cooperation in the Middle East. as

presented by the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG).
The second part of project presentations for Jordan and Israel will be held at RCC, and Regency Palace respectively at 11:00 a.m.

Also, at the same time. fonr industry worksbops about financial services, food and agro, textiles and apparel, and transportation will take place at the RCC in different rooms.

After the industry workshop lunches, the programme

tions by Egypt, Tunisia, and PNA. The Gulf of Aqaba development plan will also be submitted at the same time at the RCC. Speakers from Brussels, Germany, Jordan and Egypt are expected to intervene at the session mod-erated by David Brodet.

director-general at the Israeli Ministry of Finance. Other industry workshops will also be held at the RCC in the evening. The closing session, due at the Palace of Culture at 18:45, will see the signing ceremony on institutional structures related to regional economic coopera-

Pre-registration for participants who arrive early will be accepted today (Saturday) at the Inter.Continental Hotel from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Special shuttle transport from hotels to the Inter-Continental Hotel as well as to all other locations of the summit's meetings during the three-day economic interna-tional conference will be available.

Plenary sessions will be interpreted in Arabic, English and French.

# IMF predicts Middle East economic integration to start

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high-level government and business meeting that opens Sunday in Amman, will launch a new body to bring together the economies of the Middle East, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted.

"It's likely there will be some announcement in Amman... that they will begin to work concretely towards set-ting up a Middle East development bank and that at same time they'll get it going with something less ambitious just to make sure that work is actually done on regional integration." said Stanley Fischer, the No. 2 man at the fund.

Many details are still undecided. Mr. Fischer told a news conference, but be believed the meeting would go

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(R) - Israeli Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin Friday pushed

for the European Union

(EU) to reward the Jewish

state's peace partners Egypt,

Jordan, and the Palestinians

with free trade agreements.

But Mr. Rabin, in a meet-ing with the EU delegation,

slammed Syria for blocking

"openness... in the Arab World toward Israel."

troversial undertaking, with opposition both in countries of the region and some out. side which would be expected to take part.

He said it might take two years to set up the bank. He cautioned that whatever is set up would not hear fruit at once but that any such

bank would lend money, not

just technical aid. Mr. Fischer foresaw a big role for the private sector in such a Middle East bank. One proposal, he said, would be to begin with most of the capital coming from

outside of the region but with

the balance eventually shift-

ing to mnney from the region

"Israel has free trade

agreements with the Euro-

pean Union but there is no

such agreement between the

EU and Egypt. Jordan and

the Palestinians." Mr. Rahin

was quoted by a statement issued by his office as telling

"The prime minister re-

quested the Troika ministers.

examine this issue in order

the delegation.

He said a large outside participation would he a reas-surance to people who deal

Rabin wants EU free

be found, he said, to insure that outside participation continues. He added that in the case of the bank set up to help the countries of eastern Europe after the Soviet collapse - the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - many governments imped in at the start but their interest faded a few months later.

Busin

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He pointed out that the oil-rich countries of the Middle East have largely invested their money outside the re-

"If three to four per cent of the portfolios held by the region were shifted into the region, it would make a big difference to the development prospects of quite a few countries." Mr. Fischer said.

### Jordan, Israel sign agricultural agreement

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan and Israel on Thursday signed an agreement paving the ground for cooperation in agricultural fields and facilitating the exchange of agricultural products.

Under the terms of the agreement, which was signed by Minister of Agriculture viansour Ben Tarif and his Israeli counterpart Yaqoub Tsour, the two sides will exchange expertise and organise spraying campaigns and hold joint seminars and training courses as well as exhibitions pertaining to agricul-

They also agreed to carry out joint efforts to indoce raio, carry out agricultural research programmes and to give Jordan preferential reatment whenever Israel is in oeed of fresh products which will be exempted from any customs fees.

The agreement exempted specific Jordanian procdocts sold to Israel from customs duty like olive oil, sheep, goats, meat, white boiled heese, fruits and vegetables. It also gave Jordan the right to choose the sorts of agricultural products it wisbes to import from Israel.

Israel bas pledged to facili-

ACROSS

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14 Voyaging 15 In unison,

16 Pursuit

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35 London gallery

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58 Yale students

60 Pay attention

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43 Poor dwellings

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5 Meaningless talk

tate the import of Jordanian agricultural exports to the Palestine self-rule areas and agreed to join Jordan in set-ting up joint agricultural projects and to form a committee to meet annually to follow upthe implementation of the agreement and overcome any obstacles impeding it.

At the outset of the signing ceremony beld in the Jordan Valley, Mr. Beo Tarif delivered an address underlining the importance of the deal which be said provides for fruitful cooperation between Jordan and Israel in the ex-change of expertise, useful information and agriculture related technology especially in combating pests and opens the way for Jordan to export its prodocts to Israeli mar-

Jordan bas made major strides in the production of vegetables, fruits, milk products, eggs and ponitry meat and has surplus of these commodines which can find their way to Israeli markets, said

The Israeli minister said that the agreement will serve as a basis for future cooperation in many agricultural

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia B. Hopewell

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13 Bulrush or cattail

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### Summit to strengthen peace process by promoting business

AMMAN (J.T.) — Gregory Blatt and Frederic Sicre. members of the executive board of the World Economic Forum (WEF), on Thursday stressed the importance of bringing together leading businessmen and political decision-makers to strengthen the peace process in the region. The Middle East North Africa (MENA) econmic summit, an annual summit advancing economic development and cooperation in tthe region and creating new forms of partnerships between the public and private sectors, is the watershed event in the region. Mr. Blatt and Dr. Sicre told a press conference that extensive influence of the summit, which identifies the issues facing the MENA region and creates strategies whose repercus-sions are felt positively here and abroad.

At the second MENA economic summit, some 1100 businessmen. 300 high-level representatives from governments, regional and international organisations, 50 experts and 550 journalists will meet for three days of intensive discussions in Amman Oct. 29-31.

Thursday's puzzle solved

PLAREGEOMETRY

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54 Scrooge word

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Compared to the first MENA economic summit held in Casablanca. Morocco. at this time last year, the agenda of the meeting will be more business-driven" said Mr. Blatt, "and the summit will produce even more tangi-

The summit will focus on specific projects for economic development. Business leaders will make direct proposals to government leaders to improve the investment climate in the region. All participants have been invited to contribute to the project exchange. and individual governments will put forward specific projects during the three-day

To foster company-tocompany matchmaking, the World Economy Forum has created a database and e-mail

system to belp participants identify and contact potential business partners. Many business deals, including important contracts in the energy sector, are expected to be concluded during the sum-

Several current and future projects will be presented at the summit. Ministers of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian (National) Authority will take the opportunity of the summit to present seven joint regional projects. In addition, Bahrain, Tunisia, Morocco and Qatar will present projects to the international business community. Finally, individual companies, including ENI, Amoco and Enron, will also present projects which are under development in the Gulf. Levant and Magreb.

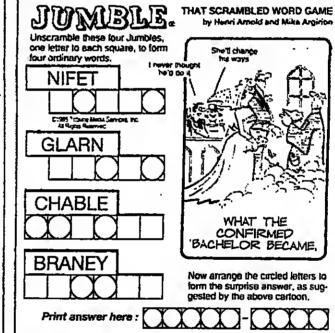


"I spoke 129,743 words to you last week and you only spoke 1,324 words to me. You owe me 128,419 words!"

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Jumbles: RAPID CHAFE FICKLE IMPUGN Passengers can become this to certain cab

crivers - FARE GAME

#### **Peanuts**







#### **Andy Cap**



#### Mutt'n'Jeff









### trade for peace partners in the region in the peace process can enjoy the fruits of

Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, whose country holds the EU's rotating chair. made no comment after meeting Mr. Rabin in Tel Aviv. After later talks with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in occupied Jerusalem, he told a news conference.

that all of the other partners "It is an important visit... we feel committed to the development of the Middle

#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATUR-DAY, OCTOBER 28, 1995

By Thomas S Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARTES: (March 21 to April Be wise and get into the business world today and take care of whatever you have little time for during busy work day and need to be

TAURUS: (April 20) to May 20) Go to new places and be with persons today who can assist you to get ahead faster at this time and later in the

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a fine day today to study the monetary angles of in mind for later this evening and in the future.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can meet objective thinking persons to-day who can be of great assistance. It is best you're not to sensitive in order to gain help from them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be more practical and get activities completed which are necessary, and forget about going off on a spree which will be unnecessary. Be more cooperative with fellow associates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can express yourself best at home so get busy today and make your abode more charming for close friends. Have a delightful time with them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get out to whatever has to be completed in public which is difficult to handle during busy work days and take pals along with you. SCORPIO: (October 23 to 67) November 21) Make out important reports and sratements today and show others what your true feelings are. Handle any travel difficulties which do develop.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day for studying books or records and handling other practical affairs which require your attention to be completed pruperly. CAPRICORN: (December 22

to January 20) You like to get all the facts of any situation straight and then you can handle them well. You should apply this to personal affairs

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Quietly plan how to be more practical in your personal affairs today and you will get the right results. Stop making promises you have no intention of fulfilling to the one you love. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Know what it is that friends want from you today and endeavour to is please them, and you will be happier in your own heart for making them occur.

Birthstone of October: Opal - Tourmaline



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peace treaty with Israel will pay dividends. Investors, awaiting a cabinet announcement this month that will ease limits on foreign ownership, think international funds could start to flow in by the end of this A law earlier this month

By Suleiman Al Khalidi

AMMAN — Reuter
Amman's inves-

tors hope new laws will

attract foreign funds needed

to revive a stock market still

unconvinced that Jordan's

eliminated cumbersome caseby-case cabinet approval of foreign purchases. The legal changes are

timed to coincide with the economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa opening in Amman on Sunday, during which Jordan hopes to attract the interest of emerging market funds.

"From now until the end of the year there will be a turning point in the market as regards foreign investment that should show its results at the start of 1996," said Samih

Qambawi, general manager of the Arab Financial Investment Company, a firm involved in long-term stock investment.

The Amman Financial Market index fell Tuesday to 158.07, above the 143.63 level when the peace treaty was signed on Oct. 25, 1994 but far off the record high of 181.63 in July 1993.

Foreign investment makes up only 4.2 per cent of the \$4.4 billion capitalised market of nearly 100 listed companies, little changed since the start of Middle East peace talks in 1991 despite 1993's market boom. There has been foreign in-

terest: More than 60 funds sought cabinet permission to invest a total of \$400 million and received approvals covering \$160 million in the two years until May 1994. But a freeze on applica-tions that month when the

state began to overhaul investment rules caused many to delay purchases. "It's a small market and any injection of liquidity will

show results quickly, and while there will be a sudden rise, the market will then be steady," Mr. Qamhawi said. Mr. Qamhawi and other

Investors pin hopes on foreign capital

to revive Amman Financial Market

investors believe foreign funds could inject 300 million to 500 million dinars (\$423 million to \$704 million) over the next year. However, even enthusiasts

agree that foreign investment will be gradual, long-term and focused on large capital-ised companies with bealthy earnings in the official mar-There are also 32 mostly

newly established companies

in the primary market, where they trade for a year before moving to the official market, and nearly 50 new companies waiting to be listed. Mohammad Tash, general manager of the brokerage firm National Securities

Company, which has acted for many foreign funds, foresees "a gradual increase in the foreign investment mix in the Jordanian equity market, with it reaching a good per-centage of the total."

Mr. Tash says funds now waiting for the legal changes will spur activity next year.
"The majority look at Jordan's market as a promising though small market, seeing opportunities to make good

returns in allocating a percentage of their funds." They will not disrupt the market by speculative activity, he added to calm fears of those who foresee overheat-

ing and volatility.

"Emerging funds are already taking the bulk of the risk by simply choosing to invest in Jordan ... they are investigated or here." risk-averse to speculate or be involved in sudden buge in-flows or outflows of capital," Mr. Tash said.

Besides lack of foreign capital, many blame current problems on the absence of institutional buying due to a tight money policy that has curbed bank lending for stock

The policy bas also made deposit yields more attractive than stock dividends.

"It's a tight liquidity market and the market is no

longer as attractive for banks because whatever they have of funds are given priority to meet the needs of financing loans, said Jawad Hadid general manager of Jordan's

Arab Banking Corporation. The value of shares traded fell nearly 14 per cent in the first nine months of 1995 to 351 million dinars (\$494 million) from 406.7 million dinars (\$573 million) in the same period last year.

Fresh stock issues by established and new companies exceeding 240 million dinars (\$338 million) this year have also drawn down liquidity.

Investors complain that the Middle East peace process has so far failed to give the predicted impetus. But a year after Jordan made peace with Israel, Jordanian investors are optimistic that the climate

"As long as the tangible results of the peace process that could bring positive economic benefits have not appeared, the market will remain undervalued," Mr.

# A review of news from the Arabic press

#### Foreign investment at AFM may reach \$700m until '98

\*\* ACCORDING TO well-informed financial sources, an international fund called the Jordan Index Common Trust intends to invest \$12 million at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) over the coming three years. The sources indicated that many international investment funds will focus on investing at the AFM and the Tel Aviv stock exchange while other funds will seek other forms of investment in Jordan and Israel as well as other countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The sources expect foreign investment at the AFM to reach JD 500 million (\$700 million) during the coming three years noting that many international investment funds have contracted many banks and institutions in Jordan to invest large mounts at the AFM (Al Dustour).

#### Jordan could receive B.B or B credit rating

\*\* INFORMED SOURCES said Jordan could be receiving a credit rating of B.B or B from Moody's and Standard and Poor's, the world's top two credit rating institutions. Only Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Israel have credit rating in the region. Israel's rating is B.B.B. [Al Dustour).

#### Local banks reportedly sign 16 agreements

**★★ KNOWLEDGEABLE BANKING** sources said that local banks in Jordan have signed agreements with 16 of the largest trust banks in the world to organise the flow of international capital to the AFM (Al Dustour).

#### Hamarneh says sales tax opens door to price rises

**★★ ECONOMICS PROFESSOR Munir** Hamameh said in a lecture that the sales tax will have a great impact on increasing prices. He explained that that does not mean a rise in prices only but opening permanent conditions to increase prices as we are suffering from various forms of continued price rises which lead to more people falling to poverty line. Dr. Hamarneh pointed out that many economists have opposed this tax describing it as a

sed the need to support local production to counter higher costs, lower demand and heightened competition resulting from the increase in sales tax and the reduction in protection for local industries. Dr. Hamarneh said the incentives given in the tax backage would not boost investment is as much as the development of local technology in a good form (Al Dustour).

#### Businessmen issue publications

★★ THE JORDANIAN Business Association has prepared a number of publica-tions. Five of them fully cover all aspects of the national economy. The remaining publications are the second edition of the Companies Law in English, the directory for the Jordanian business community, the latest book on the business climate and investment in Jordan in English and a book containing a number of speeches by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Al Dustour).

#### Investments total \$700m since August 1994

\$\$ A TOTAL of JD 548 million (approximately \$700 million) of investments were recorded by the Department of Investment Promotion at the Ministry of Industry and Trade since August 1994 until now, said Asem Hindawi, the department's director-general [Al Dustour).

324 firms invest JD 43.8m ★★ THE CAPITAL of 324 companies which registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade last month was JD 43.8 million, 7.2 per cent less than the amount during August when the capital invested by 383 companies was JD 47.2 million. The number of industrial companies which registered in September was 43 having a combined capital of JD 31.5 million while the number of commercial companies was 256 having a total capital of JD 7.8 million. Other companies which registered in September were one agricultural entity with a JD 4 million capital, six construc-tion company with a JD 202,000 in equity and 18 service institutions carrying a JD 256,000 in capital. In September of last year, a total of 49 industrial companies registered with a JD 37.2 million capital while the number of commercial companies was 173 with a capital of JD 3.5 million (Al Dustour).

### Prices drop at AFM previous week's 900.000 di-

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices dropped at the Amman stock market last week as investors sought liquidity on hopes that this week's economic conference company with a capital of in Amman would produce tangible foreign investment in the country to benefit local

entities, brokers said Friday. They said prices were de-liberately depressed despite bigh enthusiasm that the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa economic conference would advance Jordanian hopes of multi-million dollar investments with American and European government

SOS Village celebrates King's birthday

ON THE OCCASION of the 60th birthday of His Majesty

King Hussein, and under the Patronage of Her Majesty

Queen Noor, the SOS Children's Village Association of

Jordan in cooperation with Alahiia-Abela holds a drawing competition under the title "Hussein's Jordan: Year 2000."

The association is inviting all children between the ages

5-14 to participate in this competition. The drawings should

express the children's views of Jordan in the year 2000

under the care and love of His Majesty King Hussein.

Name, date of birth, address, and telephone number of all participants should be clearly written. Participation fee

All drawings should be submitted to SOS representative

at Alahlia Abela between Oct. 28-Nov. 12, from 4-9 p.m.,

where they will be put on display, and should be done on

either A4 or A3 size paper or cardboard.

Each participation enables its holder to receive a lottery

ticket for 2 persons, for one week in Euro Disney, presented by the Toy-Shop at Alahlia Abela.

Names of winners will be announced during a special festival held at Alahlia Abela on Nov. 14, 1995, between 11

Contributing to the de-pression in the market were revelations that an American company which signed a \$120 million project for a recreation park at the Red Sea resort of Aqaba was a fake

\$200, the brokers said. The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said weekly turnover was 4.7 million dinars, down nearly five per cent from the previous week's 4.5 million

The report said 2.9 million shares changed hands during the week under 3,752 contracts. Average daily trading during the week was 940,000 dinars compared with the

Industrials accounted for 41.4 per cent of the week's trading with a volume of 1.96 million dinars, followed by banks with 1.89 million dinars, the services sector with 830,000 dinars and insurance stocks with 52,000 dinars, the report said.

closed for the week at 157.9 per cent, down 2.6 points, or 1.6 per cent, from the week's opening of 160.5 points.

The official AFM index

Separate sectoral indices showed that industrials lost 1.8 per cent during the week, banks 1.6 per cent, services sector 1.8 per cent, and insurance 0.5 per cent.

The week saw shares of 88 companies changing hands. As trading closed for the week. I6 of them had gained, 56 slipped and 16 remained unchanged.

Brokers said the depression in the market was almost deliberate since many investors sought liquidity to exercise their options depending on the outcome of the MENA economic conference that begins Sunday. Several billion dollars of projects, both in infrastructure and commercial opportunities, are expected to be presented

"Everybody is hoping that agreement on financing some of the projects will be reached during the summit,

and hence the frenzy to have liquidity," said a broker. The broker said investors were also shocked by reports that an American company, "MAGIC World," which had

signed a \$120 million recreation park project at Aqaba, could be fictious and did not have finances to build the "That sent shock waves

through the business community despite government assurances that the agreement was not binding but was only a letter of intent," said the broker. "Now everybody is looking for concrete signs of liquidity and financial status of any company that steps into the Jordanian scene.

# tool hindering economic development under the present circumstances. He stres-

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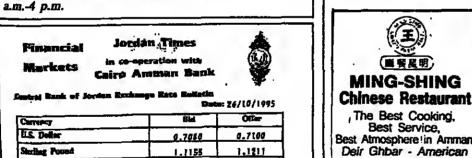
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### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and

ullion markets Friday.							
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Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns Singapore dollars Australian dollars Hong Kong dollars

\$1.5809/19 One sterling One ounce of gold \$382.60/382.75



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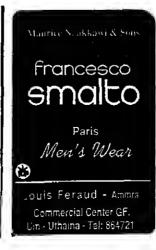


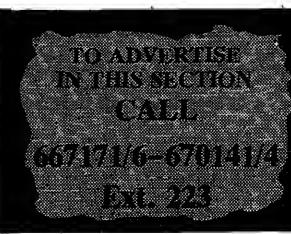


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**GOREN BRIDGE** 

Answers to weekly bridge quiz

you bold: 484 CARQ7052 CAQ 463

The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
Page Page Page
What is your opening bd?

· You have a good hand offensive-

A. You have a good name distributed by but on defense you might not even take two tricks. Since partner

Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South

you hold: 484 UAEQ7652 OAQ 465

A - Do not make a pusilanimuus

jump to three hearts — partner migh! think that you need a mod-

scum of heart support to push on to game. With 8 1/2 playing tricks in your own hand and a self-sufficient

Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold: a73 0762 0E87 4EQJ103

Page 10 Page 30

A - Don't paric and pass because you think you are a little light for

your two-over-one response. You have a good suit, a fit for partner

and a ruffing value, and partner
has heard your pass. You over partner another bid ond a raise to four
dismonds is a standout choice.

What action do you take?

is a passed hand, give up all thoughts of alam and open four hearts.

What do you hid now?

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as

South you hold: +83 CRQ74 01678 AARJE

Your night hand oppusent opens the hadding with one spade. What action do you take?

A - True, you do not have a perfect, hand, but it is far safer to act now

than to try to balance should the enemy auction die at two species.

Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as

South you hold:

A - Your minimum 4-3-3-3 shape

one-no-trump repaid and indeed

over any other suit response. However, it is too dangerous to sup press good four-rard support for

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South

you hold: 4J10 CAJ1054 04 4QJ662

Page 30

A - At first glance it might seem that three no trump to automatic. However, with two secondary hon-ors in partner's first-bid suit, a sun-

gleton in his second and an ace, a

spade contract could easily be your best spot. Bid three spades and

What do you bid now?

artner's major. Rause to 140

that's the call we would recom

ng has proceeded:
WEST NORTH PAST
Page 10 Page

Double for takeous

What do you bid now?

SOUTH

# 10 Sports

# Schumacher stuns rivals

Michael Schumacher

al pole time. "It is a trade:

mark of Michael's that he

always manages to pull out

something extra, so you just

have to go back to your re-

serves and find something ex-

David Coulthard, set fastesi

time 24 minutes into the ses-

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Second right after gas station

After Hill's teammate.

tra vourself."

SUZUKA, Japan (AFP) -Newly crowned world champion Michael Schumacher posted a stunning last-second qualifying lap on Friday to take provisional pole position for Sunday's Japanese Grand

In the final minute of the one-hour session, the pole went successively to Ferrari's Jean Alesi, Damon Hill in the Williams Renault, and then Schumacher.

The double champion threw his Benetton Renault round the 5.8km Suzuka circuit six-tenths of a second faster than Hill. His Imin 38.428sec was set at an average speed of 214.475 kph. Hill timed 1:39.032.

Mika Hakkinen, driving for the first time since an emergency appendix operation two weeks ago, set third quickest time of 1:39.127 in his McLaren Mercedes.

"I am absolutely delighted to be in the top three." said. Hakkinen. "The operation didn't affect me at all and everything is back to nor-

Schumacher was equally delighted with his provisional pole. "It's something else," he said. "We haven't had this for a long time.

This is the tenth race since Schumacher took pole position in Canada, though he has won six times since then and and is on course to equal Nigel Mansell's record of nine wins in a season.

Hill, snappy with the press here following criticism in the British media after his championship defeat at Aida, said he expected more of his car on Saturday.

He said the car was too low on his first run Friday. "It was eetting hotter and hotter. and my backside got roasteo! he said.

He payed Schumacher a compliment for his provision-

NO. 615164 - Amman.

with two successive laps, his

Coulthard said. "I am feeling

good out there. I am certain

there is more to come tomor-

row," he said, aiming for a

fifth successive pole position.

sixth time in his Sauber-Ford.

His teammate Karl Wendlin-

ger, who suffered serious

head injuries at Monaco last

year, was 17th in his return to

racing after being laid off

better shape than earlier this

year, and mentally stronger.

He had no problems with the

physically demanding Suzuka

circuit but he said it was

difficult to judge his own performance, having had

only eight races in two years. Eddie Irvine in the Jordan

Peugeot was seventh at the

track where he made his striking Formula One debut

two years ago, achieving the rare result of finishing in the

points in his first Grand Prix.

Berger in the second Ferrari

and Schumacher's teammate

Johnny Herbert, both having

their qualifying sessions cut

Irvine's teammate Rubens

Barrichello completed the

ten fastest of the 24 cars. The

tailender was Mark Blundell.

who after a morning fraught

with technical problem. ran off the track on his first lap in

qualifying.
Ligier Mugen Honda team chief Tom Walkinshaw later

confirmed that Martin Brun-

dle would be returning to

partner Olivier Panis in Ade-

aide, Brundle's last race for

the team before he joins Jor-

dan next year.

short by crashes.

Behind him were Gerhard

Wendlinger said he felt in

early this season.

Heinz-Harald Frentzen set

best being 1:39.460. He held the place until Schumacher posted 1:39.214

on his first run. After Coulthard took the pole back, Benetton made a change for the last run. "It worked out perfectly," said

Hill. Coulthard, Alesi and Schumacher all went out four minutes from the end of the session, and the times tumbled by the second.

Alesi set fastest time only to be beaten by Hill, and Hakkinen, with Schumacher setting the seal on the session as time ran out. Coulthard was pushed

down to fifth, but having never driven at Suzuka until the morning practice, he was happy with his performance. It is an absolutely fantas-

tic track," he said. "But it was pretty scary when I first went out this morning, because you have to force yourself to learn the track quick-



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dling heavy favourite Golden

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and favourites Hennessy and

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In the \$1 million sprint,

You and I, who has run in hoth California and New

York, are the favourites.

Lukas, who has won a re-

cord 12 times at the cup, also

has the hig favourite in the \$1

million Distaff with Serena's

Song, who shook off a dis-

astrous 16th in the Kentucky

Derhy and is trying for her

10th victory of the year in 13

BRIDGE SLY BRUDGE QUIZ

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Your right hand appearant open
the badding with non-pade the ELMONT. New York (R) --One of the hopes of the creators of the \$10 million Breeders' Cup races was that hattles between American and European horses would A little was storted hore a period to act to the control of the co add some kick to a dormant rivalry.

The hope has been partially realised by a series of European winners in cup races run on grass, but never hefore have expectations been stronger for a U.S.-Europe battle on the dirt track than between Cigar and Halling in Saturday's \$3 million classic.

The race caps the 12th running of the seven-race series, the richest day of racing in the world.

Cigar, owned by two-time hreeders' winner Allen Paulson, has won 11 in a row, including smashing grade one victories in California and New York his last three

Halling, owned by Sheikh Mohammad Al Maktoum, another two time breeders' winner, has won eight straight including grade one victories at York and Sandowne in Britain.

Cigar, a 5-year-old who likes to stalk the lead then rush to the wire with a closing hurst, can become racing's higgest single season money winner with a victory.

Halling, a 4-year-old who has three wins in the sand at Nad Al Sheha in Duhai, likes to rush to the front and hold off his rivals in the stretch. Paulson and Maktoum once owned a Breeders' Cup horse together, the erratic Arazi, who flopped badly after his hreeders' victory in 1991, and they are among a

group of only five owners to win more than one hreeders'

#### Congo club need another Houdini act

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Escape specialists Inter
Club must perform another
daring act on Sunday if they
bope to reached the Congolese club con-

ceded a late goal at bome to Kaloum Stars of Guinea in the first leg of the semi-finals, leaving them a steep mountain to climb in Cooakry.

But Brazzaville-based Inter are no ordinary team as a cup record of one victory in four home matches and two victories in three away games

Inter made a disastrous debut in a competition for national championship runners-up, losing by two goals at home to Petrosport only to win by the same score in Gabon and prove more accurate in the penatly shoot-

Holders Bendel Insurance of Nigeria were the next victims, falling 2-1 on aggregate in the only tie where normality reigned with both teams winning in front of their own

In the quarter-finals, goals from Edson Mimha and Serge-Alain Pady gave Inter a surprise 2-0 victory over Djoliha in Mali, hut they almost came unstuck by losing the return match.

Kaloum, the first Guinean club to progress beyond the first round since the CAF Cup was introduced three years ago, owe their favourshie position to a 82n-minute goal from Abdul Sylla Karim. It was the third time national player Karim has struck, following goals leading west African clubs Africa Sports National of Ivory Coast and Asante Kotoko of Ghana.

Stars, hoping to become the first African cup finalists from Guinea for 17 years. won both ties on the awaygoal rule and in between eli-minated 1994 runners-up Primeiro Maio of Angola via a penalty shootout.

Cicero Daroucha converted a 73-rd-minute penalty kick in Tunisia to give Etoile du Sahel a 1-0 advantage over Malindi going into the second leg on the Indian Ocean island fo Zanzibar.

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# In U.S. vs. Europe, Cigar is favoured

Paulson is a jet pilot and airplane designer prone to joking who says his horses glare down their opponents, and that Cigar has a "helluva eye" and adding that his horse "is just so hright the way he looks around."

Maktoum is all business, a man who dresses conservatively and piles winners in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. He owns Balanchine, the European horse of the year in 1994, and won the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe this year in

the swiss first class airline

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Lammtarra.

The oddsmakers have made Cigar a 3-5 favourite. the shortest odds in breeders'

history, and installed Halling at 6-1, but if forcasts predicting rain and a sloppy track are right anything could hap-

In the \$2 million turf Freedom Cry, who was second in the Arc to Lammtarra, could bring French art dealer Daniel Wildenstein his third breeders' crown. He became the only European owner to win the classic with the 133-1

Arcangues in 1993. But other Europeans-Hernado, Carnegie, and Tamure — are given a good chance to win a race that international entries have

won five times, and rain that softens the course would favour them.

In the \$1 million mile, also on the grass. Britain's Ridgewood Pearl is the 4-1 favourite, with three grade one victories at the distance.

The 2-year-old races, the \$1 million juvenile and the \$1 million iuvenile is the 4-1 favourite, with three grade and one victories at the dis-

The 2-year-old races, the

Not Surprising, an East Coast runner hred in Florida, and

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Your Window on the World

# World Bank says MENA economic boost rests on reform and private sector

By Cathy King

Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — The Middle East and North Africa IMENA) region could restore economic growth. double per capita income and reduce unemployment by the year 2010. provided that close focus is given to indigenous resources and dependence on and efficiency of the private sector are increased, according to a senior World Bank offi-

"The region has witnessed a severe slump, a crisis. But the Middle East and North Africa (region) has the opportunity to restore rapid growth and couble incomes by the year 2010," MENA region World Bank Vice President Caio Koch-Weser told a press conference on

Thursday. Mr. Koch-Weser said that while the region's economic growth was hindered by a decrease in productivity in the last 10 years and was also adversely affected by falling oil prices, the situation could be reversed if immediate action was taken.

At the press conference, Mr. Koch-Weser launched a World Bank report entitled "Claiming the Future: Choosing Prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa."

"The region has very important human, financial and physical resources. It must seize the opportunity and reap the benefits of those resources, otherwise the region runs the risk of being left behind." Mr. Koch-Weser said.

The 118-page report reviews the economic developments over the past region, which stretches exploited.

from Iran to Morocco. The report was launched on the eve of the MENA economic summit for it to contribute to de-

bate at the forum. The report underlines the negative aspects of the last 10 years, which witnessed the decline of the region as the second highest income growth performer to the last.

But Mr. Koch-Weser explained that social indicators pointed to a redeemable situation.

Social indicators include illiteracy, infant mortality and life expectancy. In the next 20 years, he said, life expectancy should increase from 60 years to over 70, while a current average of 40 per cent illiteracy could be halved.

An improvement in these social statistics. along with the promotion of non-oil products and a switch to orivate-sector dependence, could put the region on the path to restore annual economic growth to between 3.5 per cent and five per cent, he

Mr. Koch-Weser also emphasised the report's call for more skilled and flexible workers and the reduction of poverty through accelerating eco-

nomic growth. In order to cope with population growth, Mr. Koch-Weser said the report revealed the need to create 47 million jobs by 2010. However, the cost of reforms to ensure necessary economic development and job creation was affordable, he

"The cost of reforms will be manageable if shared with the private sector." and if the partnership between the MENA region and the Eurotwo decades of the MENA. Mediterranean initiative is

i aking Jordan as an example of one country already on the 'road of rapid reform.' Mr. Koch-Weser reminded the press of the World Bank's announcement lasr week approving the extension of a \$80 million reform loan to the

The World Bank has approved the next stage of a \$80 million economic development loan as on-going support for Jordan's reform efforts," he said. "This demonstrares the success of the economic reforms programme and the investor friendly climate here."

The loan agreement will be signed on Sunday, the first day of the MENA summit. The loan is one of three loans of around \$307 million that the Kingdom will finalise

on the fringes of the summit.

Last week Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh gave a breakdown showing \$135 million credit from the government of Japan in a "retroactive" arrangement with the International Monetary Fund; a \$80 million toan also from the Japanese govern-ment co-financed by the \$80 million loan from the World

The principle author of the World Bank report, Nemat Shafik, said that the report also bighlights the required export growth for doubling per capita income.

"It is a major challenge," said Dr. Shafik," "But with flexible firms and employers. increased telecommunication systems and producers, an increase in investments," the desired result would be

But, Ms. Shafik stressed. governments would need the active population of the pri-"Just one per cent increase

(in economic growth) would mean eight million less poor people." she said.
Ms. Shafik added that re-

form costs would benefit more people than those who suffer, but that governments should, in the meantime, provide a "cushion" to absorb the immediate impact of such



Technicans at work at the press centre of the Middle East and North Africa economic

## Onus is on the private sector at Amman economic summit

group Nesile.

vatisation

for the international business

community to get involved in the region." Trade and In-dustry Minister Ali Abul

Dr. Touqan said the sum-

mit comes at a timely mo-

ment as Middle East coun-

tries are doing their best to

liberalise their economies

and introduce large-scale pri-

tor the opportunity to invest

and means it will no longer be

limited to carrying out government-financed pro-

Hoping to catch the eye of

investors are Israel, Egypt,

Jordan and the Palestinians

who will put forward the hulk

of the big projects in Am-

struggled to bridge their dif-ferences over a Bosnia peace force as a planned Moscow meeting of Scrbian, Croatian

and Bosman ledaers on the

eve of Bosnia peace talks was

The Russian government said on Friday the Oct. 31

meeting would not now take

place hecause of President

Boris Yeltsin's illness. Offi-

cials said another date would

be set for the meeting, but

was quoted as saying on Fri-

oay that the Russian leader,

rushed to hospital on Thurs-day after a heartattack,

would be under close medical

supervision until the end of

Postponement of the Mos-

cow meeting was not thought likely to affect the start of

U.S.-spansored peace talks

between leaders of Bosnia's

warring patties in Dayton,

The meeting was always

seen primarily as an attempt

to assuage Russia's concerns

that it was being sidelined by its former cold war adversary

in the quest for an overall

settlement in ex-Yugoslavia.

tinuing disagreement be-

tween Washington and Moscow over the make-up of a multinational peace force for

Bosnia, a key element of a

complex package of propos-

als aimed at bringing peace to the region after four years of

U.S. Describe Secretary

William Perry met his Rus-

sian counterpart Pavel

Grachev on Thursday to Iry

Of more concern was con-

Ohio on Nov. 1.

November (see inside).

Mr. Yelisin's spokesman

posiponed.

gave no details.

This gives the private sec-

By Mohammad Hasni Agence France Presse

AMMAN — The private sector will take centre stage at the Amman economic summit as organisers hope new business partnerships will be forged to boost development in the Middle East and help shore up the peace process.

Around a thousand businessmen will join 500 government representatives from 63 countries at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit, which

opens Sunday in Amman. Organisers have declared the Middle East "open for business" following peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and Jordan, and say hundreds of projects will be on display in Amman to tempt potential investors.

Trade leaders have responded in kind, they said. The response from the husiness community has been fantastic," said Omaya Touqan, one of the Jordanian organisers of the three-day conference.

He said Amman had had to turn down requests from many more husinessmen hoping to attend hecause there were not enough places for

Seventy per cent of private

sector representatives travell-Syria, ing to Amman are from Western and Asian coun-Lebanon tries." Dr. Tougan said. Fifteen per cent are from oilrich Gulf Arab states and the remaining 15 per cent from various other countries. stay home

There will be 256 business BEIRUT (AFP) - Lebanon and finance leaders from and Syria are boycotting the Middle East and North Afri-Europe alone, including representatives from companies such as the French oil giant ca (MENA) economic sum-mit this weekend, asserting it Total and the Swiss food will help Israel tighten its grip on the Arab World and The Amman conference will be a unique opportunity

weaken the chances of a comprehensive peace settlement. However, in Lebanon. which aligned its Middle East peace policy with Syria's, the decision has exasperated business leaders and economists who regarded the forum as a chance for both countries

to attract investment. Privately, they have expressed fears that Lebanon's absence at the landmark summit in Amman will endanger its post-war reconstruction efforts and undermine its fu-

ture role in the region. But there is little they can do in the face of official hostility to the summit, which will attract some 1,500 politicians and husiness leaders from 63 countries, including Arab states, Israel, the Un-

(Continued on page 7)

under North Atlantic Treaty

Organisation (NATO) com-

mand, and said they had par-

tially closed a "distinct gap"

"At this meeting each side

clearly and unambiguously

defined its position as to how

Russia could participate in the peace implementation

process in Bosnia," Mr. Per-

between the two positions on

how to achieve that goal.

We've had a good

businesslike discussion for

the past three hours and suc-

ceeded in closing that gap some, but it's still not com-

pletely closed."
Mr. Perry declined to answer when asked if Russian

troops might serve in a civil

role such as engineering and

road-building instead of tak-

ing part in enforcement of a

peacekeeping agreement. Mr. Grachev said during a

photo opportunity at the start

of the meeting he was confi-dent a settlement could be

reached.

I am sure we will find

understanding in the end."
the burly Russian general
said.

In Bosnia itself, four trucks

driven by civilians drove un-impeded past Serb army checkpoints and into

Sarajevo on Friday - the

first to travel along a Serb-

held highway west of the capital since war began 42

The U.N.-escorted convoys are part of a U.N. effort

to ensure that the 15-day-old

ceasefire pact is respected.

months ago.

Dr. Ibrahim Ayesh

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There was a distinct gap

in their positions.

# major projects By Greg Myre

The Associated Press

Mideast

is ready

with

AMMAN - The Palesiinians will be seeking billions of dollars to finance water projects. The Israelis want an airport on the edge of the Red Sea. Egypt is to propose a regional mil and highway. network.

The Middle East is one of the world's least developed regions, but that has not kept governments from drawing up hugely amhitious - and expensive — projects that will be unveiled at an economic summit that opens Sun-

day in Amnian. In a region where foreign investment is limited. Mideast states see the conference as a rate opportunity to speak directly to scores of Western businessmen who will be among the 2,000 participants from more than 60 countries.

However, the pricey proposals will far exceed the amount of money available to finance them.

"It's unlikely that businessmen will come with their chequebooks," said Khalid Masri, senior manager for international investment at Arah Jordan Investment

And while some Mideast countries have begun to liberalise their economies, many investors remain wary of a region that's still known for political uncertainty, excessive red cape and widespread

corruption. Unless governments in the Middle East speed up the pace of economic reform, this region runs the risk of heing left hehind," Caio Koch-Weser, vice president of the World Bank's Middle East North Africa region, told a news conference Thursday.

The Amman conference is a followup to a similar gathering in Casahlanca. Morocco., a year ago. Organisers say there will be less political rhetoric at this year's conference and more face-toface business activities. although they caution that this will not necessarily result in signed contracts.

All is made possible by the Middle East peace process. which since 1993 has been Israel sign peace agreements with the Palestinians and Jor-

Jordan, the host country, plans the propose 27 projects costing an estimated \$3.5 hillion. The private sector has its own list of 136 proposals with an estimated price tag \$1.2 billion.

Perhaps the most ambitious plan calls for linking the electric power grids of Egypt. Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians.

Egypt is sending six gov-ernment ministers who will have a detailed proposal to connect regional rail and highway networks. The Palestinians have focused on their water needs, the proposals that would run into the billions of dollars.

Israel appears to have the biggest wish list of all. A government publication pur together for the conference is hundreds of pages long and lists 218 separate proposals, ranging from fibre-optic telecommunica-

desertification. Estimated cost: \$24.7 bil-

tions systems to preventing

### Italy's old guard sentenced

MILAN (R) — A Milan court on Friday sentenced two former prime ministers. Bettino Craxi and Arnaldo Forlani, and the leader of the Northern League 10 jail terms on corruption charges, judicial sources said.

The so-called Enimont trial, which began 16 months ago, put Italy's old political elite and their business associates in the dock. The 22 defendants, all found guilty, included the heads of Italy's old ruling parties and league leader Umberto Bossi.

Other big names convicted included former Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis and former Justice Minister Claudio Martelli.

Jord Mod

Housewives call for pay at world congress

BUENOS AIRES (R) -

Housewives began their first world congress Thursday with demands for more respect and laws granting them a cut of their husbands' paychecks. After standing at attention as an Argentine Air Force band played the anthems of all 2 countries represented delegates heard an impassioned defence of housewifery in a world they say often values working women more highly. "A housewife's role is a role of transmission of life, of culture and values. It is a human role to hring up one's own children, educate them, help the old and look after the welfare of all," said Tina Leonzi, president of the recently formed Inter Continental Union of Housewives. More than 150 members of mainly conservative housewife groups from Laun America and Europe jetted in for the meeting, which the Argenune hosts hope will start a campaign to recognise house management as a profession.

#### Bill gives Hillary a whistle for 48th birthday

WASHINGTON (AFP) -

President Bill Clinton gave

first lady Hillary Clinton a

whistle for her 48th birthday Thursday, no ordinary hlower but one shaped like a woman, holding the world above her head. At a small hirthday party in the White House Rose Garden, the president explained what had inspired this gift, the president explained what had inspired this gift. suitable for wearing around the neck. The design reminded him of his wife, because she is always doing something for women around the world," said the first lady's spokesman. Lattimore, Mr. Lattimores said Hillary Clinton had received three other gifts from her husband; of an undisclosed nature, as well as three birthday cards. Mr. Clinton only showed the gathering two of the cards. but reddened when his wife mentioned the existence of a third. "I guess I will have to save it for my memoirs." she said. The first lady then left for New York, where she was to visit a breast cancer research centre. The first couple spent the afternoon together. We gave the president of the United States the afternoon off so he could enjoy Mrs. Clinton's birthday, said

#### Saldivar gets life in prison for Selena murder

HOUSTON (R) - A jury

sentenced Yolanda Saldivar

August.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry, Bill Clinton turned 49 in

to life in prison Thursday for the murder of Tejano singing star Selena, It was the maximum possible punishment under Texas law and meant that she would spend at least 30 years behind bars before being eligible for parole. A stunned Saldivar hung her head and wept quietly when Judge Mike Westergren read the sen-tence. She shook her head "no" when he asked if she had anything to say, Ms. Saldivar's elderly parents who had pleaded with the jury to show leniency, cried out and sobbed loudly in the quiet courtoom. Ms. Saldivar, 35, the founder of the singer's fan club and manager of her elothing boutiques, fatally shot Selena Quintanilla Perez on March 31 in a Corpus Christi, Texas mote Prosecutors charged that she gunned the Grammiv Award-winning singer down after Selena fired her for allegedly embezzling from the boutiques.

#### U.S., Russia struggle to agree on Bosnia **MasterCard**. Card to overcome Russian objec-SARAJEVO (Agencies) tions to its troops serving The Unned States and Russia



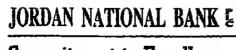
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